

**SUMMER
DOUBLE ISSUE**

Baseball America

MAJORS ♦ MINORS ♦ PROSPECTS ♦ DRAFT ♦ COLLEGE ♦ HIGH SCHOOL

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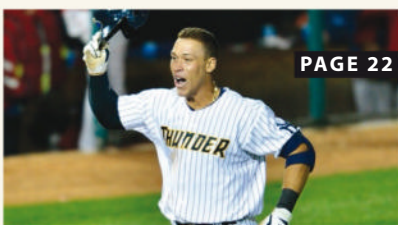
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NEXT ISSUE

Don't tell the kids, but summer is almost over. School isn't in session yet, but we'll bring the summer college league season to a close by presenting the top prospect in each league, plus a top 10 for the Cape Cod League. We'll also take a look at the draft class of 2016 by reporting from the Under Armour Game and East Coast Pro showcase.



Summer Double Issue Vol. 35, No. 18-19

COVER PHOTO: CLIFF WELCH

FROM THE archives

AUGUST 31
1997

» **IN THIS ISSUE:** How times have changed: Major league owners claim they lost \$185 million in 1996, the first full season after the strike.

» **ALSO:** Who is Bubba Smith? Only the most lovable and popular player in the minor leagues.

Pedro Martinez begins his transformation from headhunter to Hall of Famer.

Maybe it happened during Reggie Sanders' infamous 60-foot dash, when Pedro Martinez could only think, "I had a perfect game, dummy. Why would I try to hit you?"

Maybe it came to him after he charged the mound himself last year, going after the Phillies' Mike Williams and indelibly casting himself as baseball's brawlmeister.

Maybe it was simple maturity, learning from his mistakes, the evolution from careless boy to a careful man.

Whatever the explanation—all probably apply—something has happened to Martinez. And the National League doesn't like it.

This wisp of a guy, whose upper lip needs a razor about as often as your average pool ball, has become one of the most dominant starters in the league. Greg Maddux throws poison darts. Martinez fires missiles. In late July he stood 11-5 and has struck out 176, second in the league. Hitters—a charitable description—were batting a league-low .181 against him. His 1.91 ERA was the best in the NL.

"He's a tremendous pitcher, even more awesome than he was before," Marlins first baseman Jeff Conine says.

Martinez was the most impressive pitcher in this year's All-Star Game. He froze Alex Rodriguez on a vicious 0-2 curve—take that, phenom boy—and later whiffed Mark McGwire in his perfect sixth inning.



Cooperstown's class act

Pedro Martinez steals show at Hall of Fame induction ceremony

BY MATT EDDY

COOPERSTOWN

Pedro Martinez mixed words—and languages—during his Hall of Fame induction speech in late July as deftly as he once mixed pitches on the mound as ace for the Expos and Red Sox.

He addressed an estimated 50,000 fans gathered in the vast Clark Sports Center field in both English and Spanish, delivering a charismatic oration in which he thanked everyone from his older brother Ramon ("I followed his footsteps (that) led me to where I didn't expect to be today") to former Dodgers pitching instructor Guy Conti ("the guy who taught me the circle-changeup") to Dan Duquette, the general manager who twice traded for him ("He wanted me for a third time, but I was too old") to his former Boston teammates, his figurative extended family.

Martinez saved his most effusive praise for his fellow class of 2015 inductees. "What a headache you were on the bases and hitting, as well," he told Craig Biggio. "My brother from another mother!" he said, addressing Randy Johnson. "How much I enjoyed getting to know you and having you (enshrined in) this class with me." To John Smoltz, he said, "What a competitor (you were). If you put me and Randy together . . . I think (we had the same quality) stuff that you carried yourself. That's how talented you were."

Martinez delivered his 33-minute speech last among the inductees and an anticipatory energy crackled through the crowd as it sensed the moment he would approach the podium. Martinez said during his speech that

he had nearly 100 members of his family and friends in attendance, and he certainly had many score more admirers on hand from his Dominican Republic homeland.

The crowd, hundreds of them wearing jerseys with No. 45 emblazoned on the back, heralded Martinez's speech with chants of "Ped-ro, Ped-ro," the waving of D.R. flags and general musical merriment akin to the festive atmosphere found at games in Latin America. At the conclusion of his speech, Martinez hoisted his country's flag with Juan Marichal, a member of the HOF class of 1983 who until this year had been the only Dominican player enshrined in Cooperstown.

Martinez put as much thought into his wardrobe as he did his speech. A red, white and blue-striped tie complemented a light blue suit in which patches accented each sleeve at the shoulder.

"I have the Dominican flag on my right shoulder and a symbol of the U.S. on my left shoulder," Martinez told reporters during a post-ceremony press conference. "A lot of people from D.R. showed up, as you saw, to support one of its sons. But at same time, I'm a U.S. citizen, and I respect America."

Martinez closed by saying he wanted to be viewed as a sign of hope for future generations of Dominican children.

"I would like all of you to not look at me as numbers, as baseball, as achievements," Martinez said. "I would like you to actually see me as a sign of hope for a third-world country, for Latin America. Someone who you can really look up to, and feel comfortable enough to say, 'I'm proud of you.'"

ASK BA

BY J.J. COOPER

SEEING REDS

Where would the three players traded to Cincinnati (in the Johnny Cueto deal) rank in Reds Top 30 Prospects?

JONATHAN DAVIS, @THEREDSBENGAL

The Royals have made significant trade-deadline deals before, but Royals fans are used to seeing major league veterans head elsewhere in return for prospects. This year Kansas City is the one adding significant big league talent.

This is flipping the script for the Reds as well. They have been deadline buyers in recent years, but the window on the home-grown team that made two playoff appearances thanks to Jay Bruce, Aroldis Chapman, Johnny Cueto and Joey Votto has closed. So Cincinnati looked to restock its farm system.

How did they do?

Lefthander Cody Reed ranked No. 9 on the Royals list in our midseason prospect update for Baseball America subscribers.

Lefthander John Lamb didn't crack the Top 10, but he was listed as the rising prospect in the Royals organization.

And lefthander Brandon Finnegan wasn't ranked because he was in the big leagues at the time of the transaction deadline for the rankings. But now that he's back in the minors, it's fair to say that he would have probably ranked No. 2 on the Royals list, just ahead of lefthander Sean Manaea.

So how would those three southpaws look on the Reds' list? A word of caution, this "Ask BA" ranking isn't nearly as in-depth as an offseason Prospect Handbook ranking. It's more of a quick snapshot of where the players could rank.

Top prospect Robert Stephenson has a better chance to start than Finnegan and a touch better pure stuff, so he remains No. 1 in the Reds system.

But Finnegan slots nicely at No. 2 ahead of lefthander Amir Garrett. Garrett may have more upside than Finnegan—he's bigger and gets to his velocity easier—but he's also older than Finnegan. And while Finnegan has pitched in the big leagues, Garrett is pitching at high Class A Daytona.

Reed would slot a little higher on the Reds list than he did on the Royals list.

As a lefthander with a chance to be a mid-rotation starter, Reed would fit ahead of outfielder Kyle Waldrop to rank No. 6 on the revised Reds list, right behind shortstop Alex Blandino. Scouts who have seen Reed this season have been impressed with the strides he has made in improving his control, command and his secondary offerings. And he still has the 92-97 mph fastball that stood out when he was in junior college.

Lamb has had an impressive bounceback season in 2015 as he has regained some of the velocity he lost after 2011 Tommy John surgery. Lamb now projects as a nearly ready, back-of-the-rotation starter. As such, he doesn't crack an updated Reds' top 10, but he fits nicely as a prospect who would slot in the 11-15 range.

HOW TO REACH US

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 12877, Durham, NC 27709.

STREET ADDRESS: 4319 S. Alston Ave. Suite 103, Durham, NC 27713.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: letters@baseballamerica.com.

PHONE: (919) 682-9635; (800) 845-2726 FAX: (919) 682-2880.

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Catcher or not, Cubs' Schwarber caught on



Jerry Crasnick

Baseball Writer,
ESPN.com

CINCINNATI

If Cubs catcher Kyle Schwarber isn't the modern-day equivalent of Babe Ruth—or Roy Hobbes—he just might have to do until something better comes along.

In 621 minor league plate appearances before graduating to the big leagues, Schwarber hit .333/.429/.613. But

it was the manner in which he produced as much as the actual numbers that set him apart from the crowd.

Jason McLeod, Chicago's senior vice president of player development, shares a story from earlier this season that provides some telling insight into Schwarber's toughness and intensity. Schwarber was catching for the Double-A Tennessee Smokies in late April when a batter swung through a third strike for the final out of the inning. The back swing struck him in the head and nearly knocked him unconscious.

Schwarber, clearly woozy, made an off-balance throw to first base even though the ball hadn't hit the dirt and a throw wasn't required. He then dropped to one knee in pain, and the trainer rushed from the dugout with a towel to tend to a cut on his head.

When Twins prospect Jose Berrios completed his warmup tosses the following inning and Schwarber was slow to leave the dugout, McLeod sat in the stands and wondered if he was coming out of the game.

"They were still applying the towel to his head to stop the bleeding and Kyle just wanted to get his helmet and go hit," McLeod said. "The trainer asks, 'Kyle, are you sure you're OK?' To which Kyle replies, 'Yes, my head just (expletive) hurts right now!'"

Naturally, Schwarber finally stepped to the plate and launched a monster home run to right field off Berrios while his teammates went berserk in the dugout.

"One of the damndest things I've ever seen," McLeod said.

Heavy Hitter

At a solid 6-foot, 235 pounds, Schwarber looks as if he should be swinging an axe or pulling up stumps for a living. He grew up about 40 miles from Cincinnati in the town of Middletown, Ohio, where his father, Greg, is a police chief and his mother, Donna, works as a nurse.

At Middletown High, Schwarber spent his springs punishing baseballs and each autumn crushing running backs and receivers as a

linebacker on the football team. He received a total of three baseball scholarship offers—from Indiana, Miami of Ohio and Cincinnati—before heading to Bloomington to play for the Hoosiers. But he could just as easily have landed a Division I football scholarship if he had chosen to take that route.

Schwarber developed his selectively aggressive approach to hitting while attending games at Great American Ball Park as a teen and taking mental notes on his favorite player, Reds first baseman Joey Votto. He's big on working counts and waiting for a pitch he can drive, and he's disciplined enough not to stray from that approach even with runners on base.

"I love watching Joey Votto hit," Schwarber said. "He has this awesome approach at the plate, and I tried to make it into my own when I was in college. He just wants to get his pitch, and when he gets his pitch, he doesn't miss it. That's what I took from it. I tried to make it my own and I kind of hound myself on it."

Fan Favorite

Schwarber appears to have a knack for cameos. When the Cubs summoned him from Tennessee for a designated-hitter stint in June, he made an instant impression by going 4-for-5 against the Indians in his first major league start. In six interleague games, Schwarber went 8-for-22 to ingratiate himself with Cubs fans who were already giddy over the prospect of watching Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant, Addison Russell and friends progress as building blocks at Wrigley Field.

At the Futures Game in Cincinnati, roughly 100 family members and friends made the short drive from Middletown to Great American Ball Park to watch him play for the U.S. squad, and Schwarber delivered a two-run triple in his first at-bat to win the game's MVP award.

A few days later, the Cubs placed starting catcher Miguel Montero on the disabled list with a thumb injury, and Schwarber arrived from Triple-A Iowa to fill the void. He went 3-for-4 in his first game against the Braves, then clubbed two homers and went 4-for-7 in a win over the Reds.

This is a recurrent theme with Schwarber. Any day that includes sweat, dirt, a little pine tar and the exhilaration of the pitcher-batter competition is usually a good day.

"I don't think Kyle even knows it, but the way he walks to the plate, it's like, 'I'm here to do battle, and I'm here to put a hurtin' on this baseball,'" McLeod said.

But Can He Catch?

The most pressing long-term question surrounding Schwarber is, where will he play in



Kyle Schwarber's bat and hard-nosed attitude has already endeared him to Wrigley faithful

the field? Some talent evaluators are skeptical about his future as a catcher and think he'll ultimately gravitate to left field.

"He was one of the best amateurs I've seen as far as hitting for a high average with plus power, but his catching and receiving are just OK," a National League scout said. "He has enough arm to keep non-basestealers honest. I think he could do it. However, catching every day is a beat down (position), especially for his body type. I'd prefer that he play left field where he can stay fresh for longer. The risk of him catching every day and hindering his bat is too great."

For now, the Cubs are assessing Schwarber's future from the diametrically opposite perspective. They think he provides so much value as a hitter, he has a chance to be a perennial all-star if he's able to make himself into even an average defensive catcher.

Schwarber has shown glimpses—like the game in early June when he made Youtube magic by throwing out Twins mega-prospect Byron Buxton with a 1.94 "pop time" from home plate to second base on an attempted steal. The Cubs are investing a lot of time and resources into making Schwarber the best catcher he can be. Big league catching instructor Mike Borzello and minor league field coordinator Tim Cossins have formed what McLeod calls an organizational tag team to tutor Schwarber on the nuances of the position.

If hard work, a humble nature and a willingness to listen and learn are part of the equation, Schwarber will figure things out—whether it's behind the plate or somewhere else on the field.

"I don't think I'm better than anyone else," Schwarber said. "I always try to be myself and be the same person around everyone, because that's what my parents taught me when I was growing up."

Schwarber learned his lessons well. The first time the Cubs summoned him from the minors, it was for a cameo. Now it looks as if he's here for the long haul.

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GENERAL MANAGER Will Lingo @willingol

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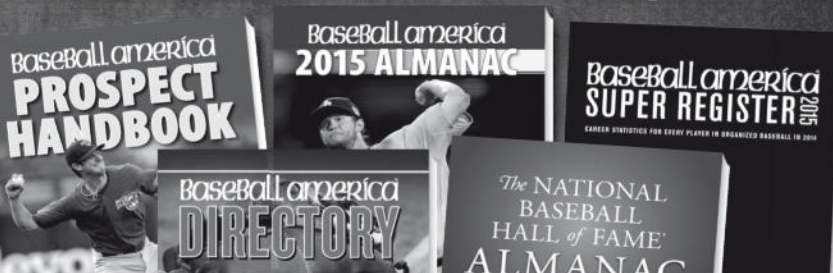
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Hall of Fame does away with lifetime votes for BBWAA

BY J.J. COOPER

The Hall of Fame announced that longtime Baseball Writers Association of America voters no longer will have a lifetime right to vote. This is one of the most significant changes to voting protocol in 80-plus years.

The Hall announced that, beginning with the 2016 election, voters will have to be active BBWAA members or be retired for no more than 10 years.

BBWAA members become eligible to vote in Hall of Fame elections once they achieve 10 years of membership. In past elections, voting rights remained intact until death, unless voters opted not to vote. While there have been other changes to Hall balloting, this is the first significant change in BBWAA voters' eligibility since 1947.

Last year, the Hall added a requirement that BBWAA members agree to a code of conduct, register to vote and have their names publicized as voters. Members are not required to publicize who they voted for.

Currently, 650 active and retired BBWAA members hold Hall of Fame voting rights. It is not clear how many voters will be affected by the change. Voters will now have to register to vote and will then be told if they are eligible. Voters who are declared inactive and ineligible can appeal and be reinstated to vote based on their coverage of games in the past year.

"The Board feels that the changes enacted over the last two years ensure that the highest levels of integrity are maintained in the voting process, with the most active electorate possible considering candidates for Hall of Fame election," Hall of Fame chairman of the board Jane Forbes Clark said in a press release.

The Hall voting rules have changed regularly over the years, including for various veterans committees and eligibility for Negro League greats. Rules for who can be voted on have changed from immediate eligibility to a one-year waiting period to a five-year waiting period. The 5 percent cutoff, which dropped players who appeared on less than 5 percent of ballots, was added in 1991.

But the past two years have seen some of the most significant changes in decades. This year, recently retired players had their eligibility cut from 15 years on the ballot to 10. Players once were eligible to remain on the ballot for 25 years (1956-1961), which was then cut to 15 years (1962-2013) and now 10.

The latest change could potentially increase the chances for players from the "steroid era" of the 1990s and 2000s. These players have generally fared more poorly with voters who do not publicize their ballots, judging from the discrepancy between projected vote totals (from published ballots) and actual vote totals announced by the Hall.

PERSPECTIVE | Paul Trap

paultrap@BaseballAmerica.com



Reds win top draft pick in supplemental round

BY TEDDY CAHILL

The order of the 2016 draft began to take shape in July when the competitive balance lottery was held at the commissioner's office in New York.

The Reds won this year's lottery and will receive the first pick in the supplemental first round—or, in Major League Baseball parlance, competitive balance round A—which immediately follows the first round. Cincinnati will be followed by the Athletics, Rockies, Diamondbacks, Marlins and Pirates.

The Padres won the first pick in the supplemental second round, or competitive balance round B, which follows the second round. Following San Diego will be the Indians, Twins, Brewers, Orioles and Rays.

The competitive balance lottery was instituted in the latest Collective Bargaining Agreement, which began in December 2011. The lottery gives teams that have either one of the 10 smallest markets or 10 smallest revenue pools one of six supplementary choices after each of the first and second rounds. Additionally, any other clubs that receive revenue-sharing funds are eligible for the supplemental second-round selections.

There were 15 teams eligible to receive a pick in this year's lottery—the Mariners, Orioles

and Twins were eligible for a supplemental second-round selection only, by virtue of having received revenue sharing. The Cardinals, Royals and Mariners were not selected.

The supplemental-round picks are the only draft selections permitted to be traded, subject to some restrictions. Each lottery pick can be traded only once and cash can't be involved in the transaction. The choices can be dealt only during the regular season, up until the first day of the draft.

Several picks have changed hands under those rules in the past three years. In each of the last two years, the Astros have acquired an extra pick at the deadline.

Last year, the Marlins won the first pick of the lottery and dealt it to the Astros as a part of the deal that sent Jarrod Cosart to Miami and Jake Marisnick to Houston.

The extra money the pick added to the Astros' already sizable bonus pool helped them put together one of the most impressive drafts, for they were able to select Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker with the Nos. 2 and 5 overall picks, and still get Daz Cameron with the first pick of the supplemental first round. Bregman signed a \$5.9 million bonus, while Tucker and Cameron signed for \$4 million each. All three deals ranked among the six largest bonuses in the 2015 draft.

IN SHORT | PEPPER

CANADA STRIKES GOLD

Team Canada captured its second consecutive Pan Am Games gold medal, this one on home soil in Toronto. The mishmash of players that Baseball Canada brings together to compete knocked off baseball giants such as Team USA and Cuba, who took silver and bronze in the international tournament.

"You'd like the clock to stop a little bit here, because this is very special," said Greg Hamilton, Baseball Canada's director of national teams. "We're going to relish this for the little bit of time that we can here, and it's very special."

The Canadian Pan Am team included nine former big leaguers, two players out of retirement, a couple more who continued playing just to get a shot in the Games, at least three in the starting lineup who aren't everyday players for their affiliates, and five indy ball players.

Meanwhile, after the U.S. men's team lost in disappointing fashion in the Pan Am gold medal game to Canada, the U.S. women's team gained a measure of revenge, beating the host Canadians 11-3 to win gold. Team USA went 5-0 at the Pan Am Games, beating Venezuela, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Canada before finishing with another win over the host country. The gold is the first for the women's national team in a non-qualifying event since the 2006 IBAF World Cup.

—Alexis Brudnicki

NEW BASEBALLS BOOST COLLEGE SCORING

The NCAA released its final trends report for the 2015 season, with the numbers showing that the new, lower-seamed baseballs did make a marked impact on offense around the college game.

The new balls were implemented to restore balance to college baseball after the game had become overly reliant on small ball as the only means of scoring, with home runs an afterthought—particularly at the College World Series. By all accounts, they accomplished their mission. Scoring did rise by 7.1 percent from 2014 to 2015, with teams averaging 5.44 runs per game with the new balls.

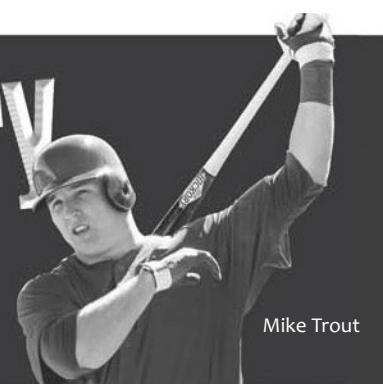
The home run came back as a weapon in college baseball in 2015, with teams hitting 0.56 home runs per game, a 43.5 percent uptick from 2014's all-time low figure of 0.39. That 0.56 number is the highest of the BBCOR bat era, which began in 2011, though still well below the 0.94 HR/G hit in 2010, the final season of the old BESR bat standards.

The national ERA jumped from 4.22 in 2014 to 4.57 this season, but the new ball wasn't all bad news for pitchers, either. The strikeout rate climbed 8.3 percent from 6.48 batters per nine innings to 7.02. There were likely a number of contributing factors to the rise in whiffs, from hitters being more willing to take aggressive hacks to the lower seams helping pitchers add a tick of velocity to their fastballs.

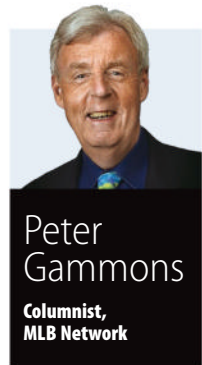
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For Astros fans, HOF weekend another part of team's revival



Peter Gammons

Columnist,
MLB Network

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y.

Main Street was lined at 7 p.m. on a Friday in late July, lined with people in Houston Astros garb. "I don't ever remember seeing an Astros shirt here," one Hall of Fame worker laughed.

And inside, with the museum open until 8, there were Astros fans filling every room. By 7:30, they'd made a remarkable discovery—the Craig Biggio induction T-shirt had sold out, a first.

Late Saturday afternoon, as the parade floats carrying Hall of Famers made their way down Main Street, it seemed

as if two-thirds of the fans stuffed onto the sidewalks were in 'Stros gear. Of course, it was Craig Biggio, and he was a model for the city, playing his entire career for this franchise that has never won a World Series, settled his family there and is a huge part of the culture.

Biggio is the first player inducted into the Hall as an Astro; Nolan Ryan and Joe Morgan were Astros, but they were inducted in other teams' caps.

But it clearly goes further. Ten days earlier, Dallas Keuchel started the All-Star Game. Days after that, general manager Jeff Luhnow pulled off the first major trade of the deadline countdown season, acquiring Houstonian Scott Kazmir from the A's. Then Kazmir threw a shutout in his first start, and it was clear that the reconstruction is serious.

The Astros have a legitimate shot at a postseason berth.

Mark Appel at the Futures Game asked, "have I played with potentially one of the greatest who ever lived (meaning Carlos Correa)?" He spoke for fans and players. Keuchel in Cincinnati called George Springer "our leader" and "our driving force," and Jose Altuve is just one of the coolest, most exciting players in Dudedom.

The Houston Colt 45s and Astros have had dozens of great players, from Morgan to Jim Wynn and Larry Dierker and James Rodney Richard to Mike Scott to Jeff Bagwell. But Craig Biggio is the one who played his entire career in Houston, is the first to Cooperstown, and as a star-crossed franchise from the land of football lined thousands of folks up and down this unforgettable town. His appearance raised this question: Is this the greatest fortnight in franchise history?

Is Houston now a baseball town? That weekend was everything owner Jim Crane and his partners could dream, far, far from the recent days when they couldn't get their games seen on local television.

"It really is beyond my wildest imagination," Biggio said. "First of all, being here and being inducted is a dream. But to see the people of Houston travelling here and pouring out their hearts is something a lot of people never thought they'd see."

The Astros held the American League wild-card lead. They were a game behind the Angels in the AL West. They now have Kazmir, they hope to get Springer back by Labor Day. Their farm system is deep enough for a couple of more trades.

In Cooperstown, Billy Spiers was there for Biggio, as was Adam Everett, and as was Matt Galante, a great instructor and influence on Biggio. Tal Smith and Drayton McLane and Tim



Astros faithful took over tiny Cooperstown to honor Craig Biggio

Purpura were there as well, key figures for Biggio.

There were two storylines this weekend. One was the Dominican Republic. We knew that. The other was Houston Astros fans, with all their emotions funneled down Main Street because of a guy who played his entire career in the city, never failed to play as hard as he could, and now has put that city in the greatest sports museum in the world.

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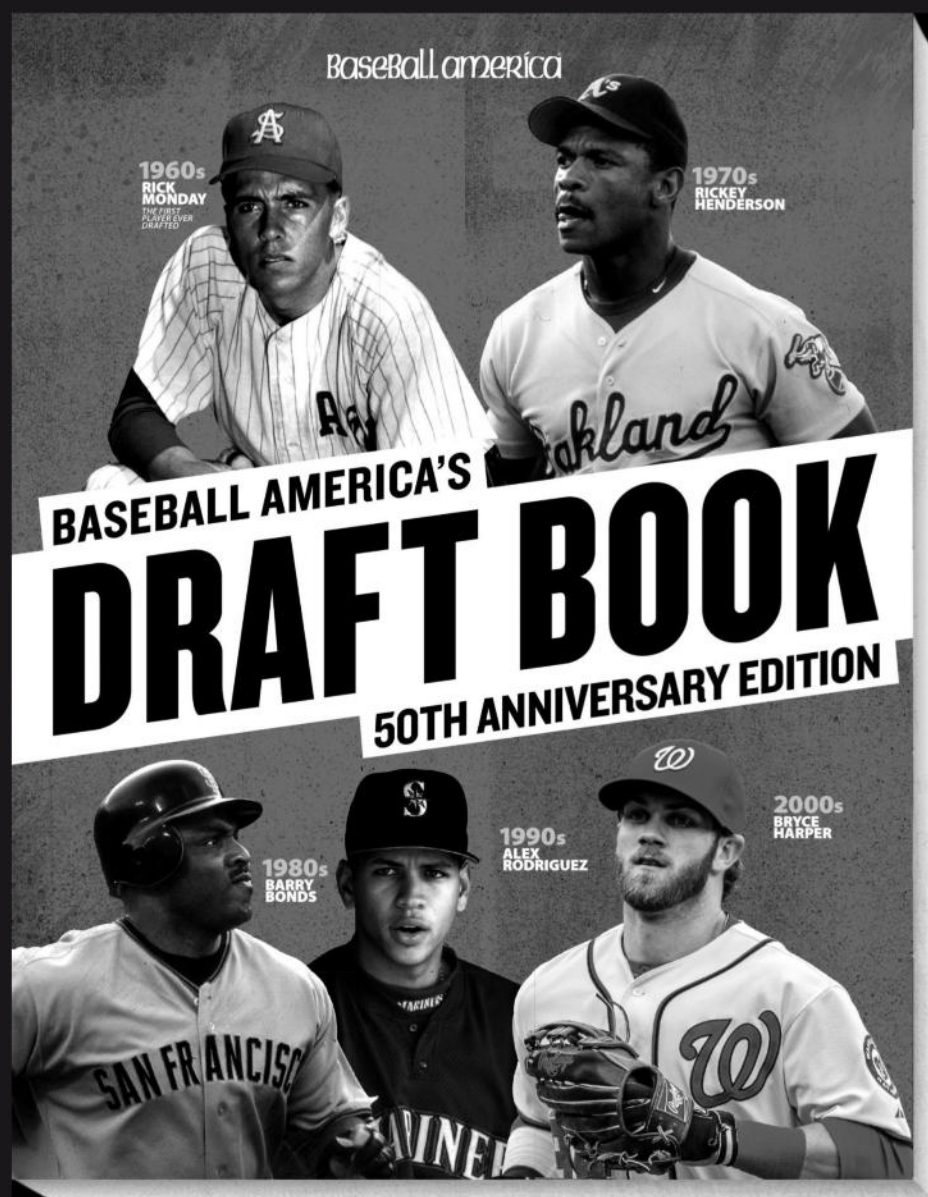


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Big Unit trade serves as big lesson



Tracy Ringolsby
Columnist,
MLB.com

DENVER

The gathering in Cooperstown, N.Y. was designed to celebrate the greatness of the four newest inductees into the Baseball Hall of Fame—left-hander Randy Johnson, right-handers Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz, and second baseman Craig Biggio.

The credentials are impressive, which underscores why the three pitchers were elected in their first year of eligibility, and Biggio was elected in his third year on the ballot.

Given the trade deadline that soon followed, however, Johnson should serve as a reminder to eager owners and club executives that it takes a team, not just a Hall of Famer, to win a World Series. While clubs were scurrying to find that missing ingredient for a championship, they should remember that in-season additions of superstars carry a high price, but no guarantees of raising a trophy.

No incident stands out like the Astros in 1998. Houston, feeling it was a dominant starter away from its first World Series appearance, packaged infielder Carlos Guillen, righthander John Halama and righty Freddy Garcia to acquire Johnson from the Mariners

on July 31 that season.

Those three players were critical parts of the Mariners' advance to the postseason in 2000 as the AL Wild Card team and in 2001 as the 116-win division champs. Guillen took over at shortstop for Alex Rodriguez, who left as a free agent following the 2000 season, and Garcia and Halama were regulars both years.

Johnson, meanwhile, was overpowering in 1998. The Astros won 102 games and the National League Central title, and Johnson, in the final two months of the regular season, was 10-1 with a 1.28 ERA in 11 starts.

"As my time finished up in Seattle I went to Houston for two months. It would inevitably be the two best months of my career, pitching 11 starts and going 10-1," Johnson said during his induction speech in Cooperstown before turning to fellow Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan. "And the Houston Astrodome wasn't bad to pitch in either, was it, Nolan?"

The Astros, however, were eliminated from the postseason in four games by the Padres in the NL Division Series. Johnson lost Games One and Four, but he allowed just three earned runs in 14 innings combined. The Astros scored one run in each of the two games, and Johnson left as a free agent after the season.

Donn Clendenon is the only player to win the World Series MVP (since it was established in 1955) who was acquired through an in-season trade. The Mets acquired

Clendenon as part of a multiplayer deal with the Expos, which included Steve Renko going to Montreal, on June 15, 1969.

Celebration Time

Johnson did win a World Series ring with Arizona in 2001. His impact was underscored by the World Series MVP trophy he earned. Johnson was 3-0, 1.04 in the D-backs' seven-game series victory against the Yankees. He posted wins in Games Six and Seven.

He went seven innings for the Game Six victory, setting up the winner-take-all finale in Arizona. Curt Schilling started that game, but after Alfonso Soriano led off the top of the eighth with a home run to put the Yankees up, 2-1, and David Justice singled with one out, Miguel Batista came in to get Derek Jeter out. Then Johnson came on to get the final four outs, and he earned the win when Arizona rallied for a 3-2 victory in the bottom of the ninth.

It was a fitting moment in the career of the five-time Cy Young Award-winning Johnson, who won 303 big league games, struck out 4,875 batters (second to only Ryan), averaged a best-in-history 10.6 strikeouts per nine innings and compiled the ninth-best WAR (104.3) for a pitcher.

He went into the Hall of Fame as a Diamondback.

"Going back home to Arizona, meeting (owner) Jerry Colangelo. He had a vision for



Randy Johnson was dominant in Houston, but he couldn't get the Astros to the World Series

that baseball team in Arizona and I bought into it, and he believed in me," Johnson told the Cooperstown crowd. "I played there and (got) the ball started in motion there. Individual accomplishments are great, but in 2001 we had a team that in spring training we were all on the same page and we never deviated or wavered from that. And that led us to the World Series against the greatest team of all time: the New York Yankees."

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John Manuel

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During the 2014 Winter Meetings, the Baseball Writers Association of America voted in three Baseball America writers as members.

Ben Badler, J.J. Cooper and I were proud to be voted in; not being in the BBWAA had been a source of frustration for us at times over the years. I'd have to explain to family or friends that

yes, I'm a baseball writer who lives in America, but I'm not in the BBWAA because I don't focus solely on the major leagues.

The BBWAA remains in the midst of significant changes, and for all the criticism it has received in recent years, the last two Hall of Fame classes show BBWAA members have

adjusted to the modern era with its newer statistics, PED concerns and social-media scrutiny.

I would argue that including BA in the BBWAA is another part of that evolution, because as commissioner Rob Manfred says, it's all one baseball.

Covering the major leagues is different from covering all levels—from high schools and college through the draft and minor leagues—from a scouting and player-development point of view. But nothing shows how intertwined all those aspects are like the months of June and July, when events that BA and its readers love take center stage.

The draft, the College World Series, the Futures Game and the trade deadline at the end of July involve every level of baseball, and major league clubs intertwine them all like never before.

First, take the draft. Some organizations see the draft in a 21st century view, where economics theory trumps all. I'm no Thomas

Piketty (he's French so it's doubtful that he gets baseball anyway), but I can see that more analytical ballclubs see all their players—major and minor league as well as draft picks and international signees—as assets whose value is expressed in ways beyond simply present on-field performance.

That's especially true in the era of the draft and international bonus caps, which encompasses the last four years. Teams had been precluded from trading draft picks until the current Collective Bargaining Agreement allowed the trading of competitive balance picks, and as soon as that happened, teams started trading them. The Marlins have moved one in each of the last three years; the Braves try to hoard them, acquiring one in 2015 and already having acquired one for the 2016 draft. And teams look to stretch their international bonus pools, sometimes trading minor leaguers for international cap room.

Some teams like the Diamondbacks, who under chief baseball officer Tony La Russa



In trading him, Arizona may not have properly valued 2014 first-round pick Touki Toussaint

and general manager Dave Stewart—their fourth regime in six years—haven't grasped the new reality yet. Arizona left \$1.7 million on the table in its 2015 draft budget, failing to capitalize on an advantage it had over the rest of the industry.

Arizona still has good scouts and a history of solid player development, including recent homegrown all-stars like Paul Goldschmidt and A.J. Pollock, or 2010 draft picks Adam Eaton (19th round) and Mike Bolsinger (15th round). Arizona valued Bolsinger so little that it sold his contract to the Dodgers last November, and all the righty had done by late July was go 5-3, 2.83 in 89 innings for L.A.

It should have used those scouts to find more high-risk, high-reward players to spend that extra \$1.7 million on, gathering assets in building a better organization. Instead, La Russa and Stewart seem to see the draft differently. They apparently didn't see much value in their 2014 first-round pick, righthander Touki Toussaint (drafted under then-GM Kevin Towers), trading him to the Braves to help unload Bronson Arroyo's contract.

Stewart asserted that reports of Toussaint throwing 96 mph were exaggerated, though pro scouts have told BA that the long-limbed Toussaint, one of the liveliest arms in a 2014 draft class filled with power fastballs, has thrown that hard if not harder as a pro.

Even the Royals, hardly a club placed on the analytics side of the spectrum, have shown what a 2014 first-round pick can be worth. They took lefthander Brandon Finnegan out of Texas Christian and signed him for a shade more than \$2.2 million. They pushed him to the big leagues, and he became the first player ever to pitch in the College World Series and the World Series in the same year. Now in mid-2015, the Royals used Finnegan as a key piece to acquire Johnny Cueto from the Reds for another playoff push.

The trade deadline showcased more links between scouting and player development and the majors. Nick Williams showcased his athleticism and swing during the Futures Game in Cincinnati, an event annually flooded with scouts who treat it as a minor league scouting combine prior to the trade deadline. The Rangers packaged Williams, as well as righthander Jake Thompson—who played for USA Baseball's Pan Am Games squad in July—and catcher Jorge Alfaro to the Phillies for ace Cole Hamels.

That's how it works in 2015, and has worked for awhile. It all ties together; it's all one baseball. The BBWAA recognizes it, as do many major league organizations. Those that don't doom themselves to playing catch-up.



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ROGERS
CENTRE

Teams dial down spending in draft

BY JOHN MANUEL

Scouts generally panned the 2015 draft class most of the spring, and their bosses put their money behind that evaluation during the draft signing period.

According to documents obtained by Baseball America, the 30 major league organizations spent \$219,424,530 total in signing bonuses this year, just \$513,230 over the total signing bonus pool allotment for the industry and well below the record of more than \$236 million that was spent on the 2011 draft, more than \$228 million of which was pure signing bonuses.

In fact, even though bonus pools were up 8.77 percent over the 2014 draft, bonus spending actually decreased in 2015. The industry spent \$222,809,919 in 2014 bonuses and tax penalties, in a year in which the No. 1 overall pick failed to sign. In 2015, spending was just .23 percent above the allotment.

That was aided in part by the Diamondbacks, who picked first overall and entered the draft with the third-largest bonus pool at \$12,816,100. Arizona signed No. 1 pick Dansby Swanson for \$6.5 million and spent \$11,128,900 overall on the draft. Swanson's bonus was more than \$2 million below the \$8,616,900 value with the top pick. In fact, the only over-slot bonus Arizona handed out in the first 10 rounds went to

ninth-round righthander Pierce Romero out of Santa Barbara (Calif.) CC, who signed for \$295,000. Romero pitched less than 20 innings the past two years in junior college.

The D-backs were one of 16 clubs to spend below their pool, though no one approached them in being \$1,687,200 below their pool.

Within Their Limits

In the fourth draft under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, it's clear no team in baseball is willing to blow past its draft pool by more than 5 percent and give up a first-round pick in the next draft. In four drafts, it hasn't happened.

Fourteen clubs went over their bonus pools this year. The penalties ranged from the Orioles—who went over their pool by \$16,300—to the Astros—who had the largest pool at \$17,289,200 and went over by \$575,800, 3.33 percent of their pool.

No team came closer to going over its pool by more than 5 percent than the defending World Series champion Giants, who spent \$7,890,300, which was \$374,800 (4.99 percent) over its bonus pool. The Giants went over-slot most significantly for third-round prep infielder Jalen Miller (\$1.1 million, slot value of \$598,300) and fourth-round Chipola (Fla.) JC lefty Mac Marshall (\$750,000 bonus, slot value of \$443,800).

The Indians (4.98 percent over their pool)

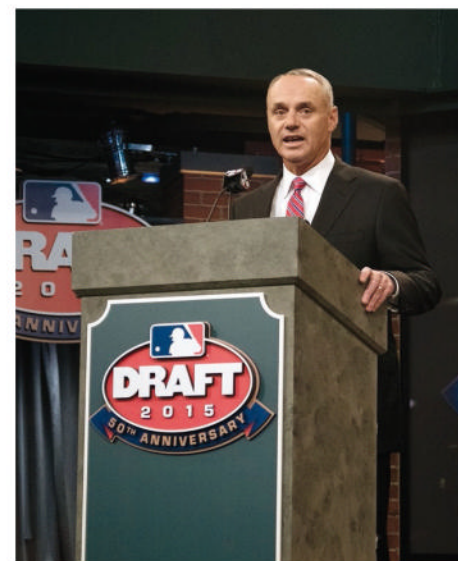
and the Dodgers (4.95 percent) each nearly matched the Giants, which explains why the Dodgers were unwilling and unable to go over slot for 35th overall selection Kyle Funkhouser. Instead, Funkhouser decided to return to Louisville for his senior season. The Dodgers hemmed themselves in with Funkhouser by going well over slot for 11th-rounder Imani Abdullah (\$647,500, slot value of \$100,000) and fifth-rounder Brandon Davis (\$918,600, slot value of \$313,600).

The Indians went over slot for their top two picks: lefthander Brady Aiken (\$2,513,280 bonus, \$2,393,600 slot value) and righthander Triston McKenzie (\$2,302,500 bonus, \$1,468,400 slot value).

New Spending Record

The Astros' \$17.865 million expenditure this year broke the record, set in 2011 by the Pirates, for the most money a club has spent in one draft. In 2011, Pittsburgh spent \$17,005,700, including a record \$8 million bonus for No. 1 overall pick Gerrit Cole and \$5 million for second-rounder Josh Bell.

This year's record spending was the third time in the four years of the current CBA that the Astros have spent more than \$10 million on the draft, and their four-year total of \$47,534,700 dwarfs the rest of the industry. The Rockies and Cubs are the only franchises within \$10 million of the Astros in draft



Major league teams avoided giving up first-round picks by not blowing past draft pools

spending in the current "capped draft" era.

Teams that have yielded first-round picks for free-agent compensation—such as the Mets, Tigers, Nationals and Angels—rank toward the bottom of draft expenditures. But so do the Rays, who finally got an extra pick in the Competitive Balance Lottery (SEE PAGE 5) for the first time despite consistently ranking at or near the bottom of the majors in revenue.

For detailed team-by-team spending information, visit BaseballAmerica.com/draft



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TOOL TIME

Baseball America asked every big league manager to break down the best major leaguers in a variety of categories

National League



BEST HITTER

1. Paul Goldschmidt, *D-backs*
2. Bryce Harper, *Nationals*
3. Buster Posey, *Giants*



BEST POWER

1. Giancarlo Stanton, *Marlins*
2. Bryce Harper, *Nationals*
3. Todd Frazier, *Reds*



BEST BUNTER

1. Dee Gordon, *Marlins*
2. Billy Hamilton, *Reds*
3. Gerardo Parra, *Brewers*



BEST STRIKE-ZONE JUDGMENT

1. Joey Votto, *Reds*
2. Paul Goldschmidt, *D-backs*
3. Matt Carpenter, *Cardinals*



BEST HIT-AND-RUN ARTIST

- 1 (tie). Yadier Molina, *Cardinals*
- 1 (tie). Martin Prado, *Marlins*
3. D.J. LeMahieu, *Rockies*



BEST BASERUNNER

1. Dee Gordon, *Marlins*
2. Billy Hamilton, *Reds*
3. Paul Goldschmidt, *D-backs*



FASTEST BASERUNNER

1. Billy Hamilton, *Reds*
2. Dee Gordon, *Marlins*
3. Ben Revere, *Phillies*



MOST EXCITING PLAYER

1. Bryce Harper, *Nationals*
2. Giancarlo Stanton, *Marlins*
3. Andrew McCutchen, *Pirates*



BEST PITCHER

1. Zack Greinke, *Dodgers*
2. Max Scherzer, *Nationals*
3. Clayton Kershaw, *Dodgers*



BEST FASTBALL

1. Aroldis Chapman, *Reds*
2. Jake deGrom, *Mets*
3. Craig Kimbrel, *Padres*



BEST CURVEBALL

1. Clayton Kershaw, *Dodgers*
- 2 (tie). Gio Gonzalez, *Nationals*
- 2 (tie). Jose Fernandez, *Marlins*



BEST SLIDER

1. Max Scherzer, *Nationals*
2. Jose Fernandez, *Marlins*
3. Clayton Kershaw, *Dodgers*



BEST CHANGEUP

1. Cole Hamels, *Phillies*
2. Zack Greinke, *Dodgers*
3. James Shields, *Padres*



BEST CONTROL

1. Zack Greinke, *Dodgers*
2. Max Scherzer, *Nationals*
3. Clayton Kershaw, *Dodgers*



BEST PICKOFF MOVE

1. Julio Teheran, *Braves*
2. Madison Bumgarner, *Giants*
3. Johnny Cueto, *Reds*



BEST RELIEVER

1. Aroldis Chapman, *Reds*
2. Craig Kimbrel, *Padres*
3. Trevor Rosenthal, *Cardinals*



BEST DEFENSIVE CATCHER

1. Yadier Molina, *Cardinals*
2. Jonathan Lucroy, *Brewers*
3. Francisco Cervelli, *Pirates*



BEST DEFENSIVE 1B

1. Paul Goldschmidt, *D-backs*
2. Adrian Gonzalez, *Dodgers*
3. Joey Votto, *Reds*



BEST DEFENSIVE 2B

1. D.J. LeMahieu, *Rockies*
- 2 (tie). Dee Gordon, *Marlins*
- 2 (tie). Brandon Phillips, *Reds*



BEST DEFENSIVE 3B

1. Nolan Arenado, *Rockies*
2. Todd Frazier, *Reds*
3. Kris Bryant, *Cubs*



BEST DEFENSIVE SHORTSTOP

1. Andrelton Simmons, *Braves*
2. Adeiny Hechavarria, *Marlins*
3. Brandon Crawford, *Giants*



BEST INFILDER ARM

1. Andrelton Simmons, *Braves*
2. Troy Tulowitzki, *Rockies*
3. Nolan Arenado, *Rockies*



BEST DEFENSIVE OUTFIELDER

1. Andrew McCutchen, *Pirates*
2. Denard Span, *Nationals*
3. Billy Hamilton, *Reds*



BEST OUTFIELD ARM

1. Yasiel Puig, *Dodgers*
2. Gerardo Parra, *Brewers*
3. Carlos Gonzalez, *Rockies*



BEST MANAGER

1. Bruce Bochy, *Giants*
2. Mike Matheny, *Cardinals*
3. Joe Maddon, *Cubs*



Zack Greinke

DIAMOND IMAGES

American League



BEST HITTER

1. Miguel Cabrera, *Tigers*
2. Mike Trout, *Angels*
3. Prince Fielder, *Rangers*



BEST POWER

1. Mike Trout, *Angels*
2. Nelson Cruz, *Mariners*
3. Miguel Cabrera, *Tigers*



BEST BUNTER

1. Brett Gardner, *Yankees*
2. Erick Aybar, *Angels*
3. Delino DeShields Jr., *Rangers*



BEST STRIKE-ZONE JUDGMENT

1. Jose Bautista, *Blue Jays*
2. Miguel Cabrera, *Tigers*
3. Carlos Santana, *Indians*



BEST HIT-AND-RUN ARTIST

1. Jose Altuve, *Astros*
2. Alcides Escobar, *Royals*
3. Erick Aybar, *Angels*



BEST BASERUNNER

1. Jose Altuve, *Astros*
2. Brett Gardner, *Yankees*
3. Mike Trout, *Angels*



FASTEST BASERUNNER

1. Jarrod Dyson, *Royals*
2. Billy Burns, *Athletics*
3. Mike Trout, *Angels*



MOST EXCITING PLAYER

1. Mike Trout, *Angels*
2. Manny Machado, *Orioles*
3. Jose Altuve, *Astros*



BEST PITCHER

1. Chris Sale, *White Sox*
2. Dallas Keuchel, *Astros*
3. Chris Archer, *Rays*



BEST FASTBALL

1. Garrett Richards, *Angels*
2. Jake McGee, *Rays*
3. Yordano Ventura, *Royals*



BEST CURVEBALL

1. Corey Kluber, *Indians*
2. Sonny Gray, *Athletics*
3. Dellin Betances, *Yankees*



BEST SLIDER

1. Chris Archer, *Rays*
2. Corey Kluber, *Indians*
3. Chris Sale, *White Sox*



BEST CHANGEUP

1. Felix Hernandez, *Mariners*
2. Chris Sale, *White Sox*
3. Marco Estrada, *Blue Jays*



BEST CONTROL

1. Phil Hughes, *Twins*
- 2 (tie). Mark Buehrle, *Blue Jays*
- 2 (tie). Dallas Keuchel, *Astros*



BEST PICKOFF MOVE

1. Mark Buehrle, *Blue Jays*
2. Wade Miley, *Red Sox*
3. Chris Capuano, *Yankees*



BEST RELIEVER

1. Wade Davis, *Royals*
2. Zach Britton, *Orioles*
3. Dellin Betances, *Yankees*



BEST DEFENSIVE CATCHER

1. Salvador Perez, *Royals*
2. Russell Martin, *Blue Jays*
3. Yan Gomes, *Indians*



BEST DEFENSIVE 1B

1. Eric Hosmer, *Royals*
2. Mark Teixeira, *Yankees*
3. James Loney, *Rays*



BEST DEFENSIVE 2B

1. Dustin Pedroia, *Red Sox*
2. Robinson Cano, *Mariners*
3. Jose Altuve, *Astros*



BEST DEFENSIVE 3B

1. Manny Machado, *Orioles*
2. Josh Donaldson, *Blue Jays*
3. Adrian Beltre, *Rangers*



BEST DEFENSIVE SHORTSTOP

1. Alcides Escobar, *Royals*
2. Jose Iglesias, *Tigers*
3. J.J. Hardy, *Orioles*



BEST INFILDER ARM

1. Manny Machado, *Orioles*
2. Adrian Beltre, *Rangers*
3. Josh Donaldson, *Blue Jays*



BEST DEFENSIVE OUTFIELDER

- 1 (tie). Kevin Kiermaier, *Rays*
- 1 (tie). Lorenzo Cain, *Royals*
3. Adam Jones, *Orioles*



BEST OUTFIELD ARM

1. Yoenis Cespedes, *Tigers*
2. Leonys Martin, *Rangers*
3. Kevin Kiermaier, *Rays*



BEST MANAGER

1. Buck Showalter, *Orioles*
2. Terry Francona, *Indians*
3. Paul Molitor, *Twins*



Mike Trout

BILL NICHOLS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL TRAPP

Archer's slider wows with depth and velocity

BY MARC TOPKIN

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Chris Archer was heading into his junior season at North Carolina's Clayton High, just starting to pitch full time, when a friend inquired if he wanted to throw with her older brother, who'd been drafted by the Red Sox and was playing minor league ball.

Davey Penny asked Archer what he threw, and he told him mostly fastballs and curveballs. Penny suggested he try a few other pitches, showing him grips for a two-seam fastball and a slider.

"And it's the same slider I throw to this day," said Archer, who now throws them quite often, and quite well, the top weapon in an arsenal that has elevated him to be an all-star and the latest ace for the Rays.

Except it almost wasn't.

A fifth-round pick by the Indians in 2006, Archer reported to the Indians' Gulf Coast League team and eagerly threw his first bullpen. It was then, he said, that pitching coach Juan Jimenez told him he threw the curveball better and needed to focus on three pitches (fastball, changeup, curveball) so he should drop the slider.

"One bullpen," Archer said.

Archer didn't want to let go, though. So when he got traded with two other minor leaguers to the Cubs (for Mark DeRosa) before the 2009 season, he figured "these guys don't know whether it was a curve or a slider" since the break was so good, and he went back to throwing the slider with low Class A Peoria.

"It obviously took off from there," he said.

He continued to throw it, and refine it, during two years in the Cubs system and, after the January 2011 trade (for Matt Garza) to the Rays, especially under the guidance of then Triple-A Durham pitching coach Neil Allen.

The big moment came when he was called up by Tampa to make his major league debut in June 2012, and the Rays encouraged him to use that power slider as much as he wanted.

"They were like, don't be afraid to use it in any count or any situation," Archer said. "I was like, 'Really?'"

"They didn't really tell me why, but in my mind I was like, 'It's that good that I can throw it to lefties and righties, 3-0 and 0-0?'"

Though it's technically an offspeed pitch, Archer's slider is so good primarily because he throws it so hard, often clocked in the 90-93 mph range. Think of a pitch that has fastball velocity but curveball break and you get a sense of why it is so effective.

"I don't know why, that's just the way it comes out," Archer said. "I was taught to throw it with the same aggressiveness as my fastball."

Archer has used the hard slider to make good hitters look bad all season.



Cleveland took away Chris Archer's slider but he brought it back

The feedback has been obvious, from the hefty strikeout totals Archer has posted to the feeble swings batters have taken.

An early June game in Anaheim was a prime example. Former Rays ace David Price, whose Tigers faced the Angels before the Rays, said he tried to warn Angels MVP Mike Trout what he was in for against Archer.

And, after going down swinging three times as Archer racked up a Rays record-tying 15 strikeouts on the night, Trout was quick to tell Price how right how he was.

"As soon as that game ended, Trout texted me, and he was like, 'Your boy is something else. He's throwing 92 mph sliders. Nobody had a chance,'" Price recalled. "He was like, 'That was SO impressive.' If you get that guy saying that—

and he loves the ball down—that's crazy. Just crazy."

And it has been driving hitters crazy all season. Through late July, the 26-year-old Archer was 9-7, 2.80 in 20 starts with 153 strikeouts and 31 walks in 129 innings. He ranked sixth in the American League in ERA, third in strikeouts, second in strikeouts per nine (10.7), and fourth in WHIP (1.01).

The combination of the velocity and the break sets Archer's slider apart.

"I don't think baseball has ever seen this pitch before," Price said. "It's the best pitch in baseball by far. Chris Sale has an unbelievable slider and changeup, and Felix (Hernandez)'s changeup is phenomenal and (Clayton) Kershaw's curveball is really good."

"But if anybody in baseball could have one pitch, it's got to be Archer's slider."

Price, who was a mentor and remains close friends with Archer, isn't the only one giving expert testimony.

Angels radio analyst Mark Langston, a four-time all-star during a 19-year pitching career, raved as well.

"His slider is as good a slider as I've seen, maybe ever,"

Langston said. "That night he pitched against us . . . it was an impressive performance, something I hadn't seen in a long time."

"I was there when Roger Clemens struck out 20 against us in Seattle, and it was that kind of stuff. In fact, his breaking ball was better than Roger's . . . Archer's breaking ball, I don't know if I've ever seen one that hard with that much depth to it."

Few pitchers, based on PITCHf/x statistical data, throw their slider faster than Archer, who is averaging 87.8 mph and has been clocked at 92 a half dozen times. And even fewer throw their slider with more break than Archer, who gets the ball to drop 8½ to 12 inches and move 6-8 inches across or off the plate, similar to some curveballs.


And that combination, along with the axis he creates in releasing the ball and an above-average spin rate (about 2,300 rpm) that increases the difficulty for hitters to see the seams and distinguish it from a fastball, is what sets Archer apart.

"A lot has to do with his hand position, how much he gets his hand turned because that in essence is what really creates the movement," Rays bullpen coach Stan Boroski said.

"The unique thing about his is that it has the same movement even at the harder velocities. Generally the harder you throw a pitch the less it breaks."

Archer insists he isn't throwing the slider any harder or spinning it any differently this season, though he is throwing it more often (up 12 percent to 40.7 percent of his pitches) and getting better results, with a swing-and-miss rate of nearly 41 percent (and 107 of his first 153 strikeouts with it).

"I feel like it's the same, just that I can control it a little better," Archer said. "I think it's just like anything, the more you practice it the better it gets. I think the difference is the conviction."



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INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE	Maikel Franco Lehigh Valley (Phillies)	Richie Shaffer Durham (Rays)	Rob Refsnyder Scranton/WB (Yankees)	Jose Peraza Gwinnett (Braves)	Eury Perez Gwinnett (Braves)	Robert Stephenson Louisville (Reds)	Luis Severino Scranton/WB (Yankees)	Luis Severino Scranton/WB (Yankees)	Henry Owens Pawtucket (Red Sox)	Tyler Wilson Norfolk (Orioles)
PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE	Corey Seager Oklahoma City (Dodgers)	Jon Singleton Fresno (Astros)	Greg Garcia Memphis (Cardinals)	Matt Szczur Iowa (Cubs)	Darnell Sweeney Oklahoma City (Dodgers)	Steve Matz Las Vegas (Mets)	Noah Syndergaard Las Vegas (Mets)	Jon Gray Albuquerque (Rockies)	Justin Nicolino New Orleans (Marlins)	Tim Cooney Memphis (Cardinals)
EASTERN LEAGUE	Josh Bell Altoona (Pirates)	Aaron Judge Trenton (Yankees)	Yandy Diaz Akron (Indians)	Roman Quinn Reading (Phillies)	Roman Quinn Reading (Phillies)	Tyler Glasnow Altoona (Pirates)	Luis Severino Trenton (Yankees)	Tyler Glasnow Altoona (Pirates)	Parker Bridwell Bowie (Orioles)	Aaron Nola Reading (Phillies)
SOUTHERN LEAGUE	Kyle Schwarber Tennessee (Cubs)	Adam Brett Walker Chattanooga (Twins)	Max Kepler Chattanooga (Twins)	Tim Anderson Birmingham (White Sox)	Byron Buxton Chattanooga (Twins)	Blake Snell Montgomery (Rays)	Frankie Montas Birmingham (White Sox)	Jorge Lopez Biloxi (Brewers)	Blake Snell Montgomery (Rays)	Jose Berrios Chattanooga (Twins)
TEXAS LEAGUE	Carlos Correa Corpus Christi (Astros)	Joey Gallo Frisco (Rangers)	Tony Kemp Corpus Christi (Astros)	Terrance Gore Northwest Arkansas (Royals)	Terrance Gore Northwest Arkansas (Royals)	Julio Urias Tulsa (Dodgers)	Tayron Guerrero San Antonio (Padres)	Julio Urias Tulsa (Dodgers)	Jose De Leon Tulsa (Dodgers)	Colin Rea San Antonio (Padres)
CALIFORNIA LEAGUE	A.J. Reed Lancaster (Astros)	A.J. Reed Lancaster (Astros)	A.J. Reed Lancaster (Astros)	Timmy Lopes Bakersfield (Mariners)	Ian Miller Bakersfield (Mariners)	Antonio Senzatela Modesto (Rockies)	Ray Black San Jose (Giants)	John Richy Rancho Cucamonga (Dodgers)	Sean Newcomb Inland Empire (Angels)	Antonio Senzatela Modesto (Rockies)
CAROLINA LEAGUE	Bradley Zimmer Lynchburg (Indians)	Nellie Rodriguez Lynchburg (Indians)	Mark Zagunis Myrtle Beach (Cubs)	Adam Engel Winston-Salem (White Sox)	Adam Engel Winston-Salem (White Sox)	Lucas Giolito Potomac (Nationals)	Reynaldo Lopez Potomac (Nationals)	Lucas Giolito Potomac (Nationals)	Eric Skoglund Wilmington (Royals)	Eric Skoglund Wilmington (Royals)
FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE	Michael Conforto St. Lucie (Mets)	Clint Coulter Brevard County (Brewers)	Austin Meadows Bradenton (Pirates)	Yefri Perez Jupiter (Marlins)	Yefri Perez Jupiter (Marlins)	Alex Reyes Palm Beach (Cardinals)	Alex Reyes Palm Beach (Cardinals)	Alex Reyes Palm Beach (Cardinals)	Blake Snell Charlotte (Rays)	Jorge Ortega Brevard County (Brewers)
MIDWEST LEAGUE	Rowdy Tellez Lansing (Blue Jays)	Jacob Nottingham Quad Cities (Astros)	Tim Locastro Lansing (Blue Jays)	Greg Allen Lake County (Indians)	Rashad Crawford South Bend (Cubs)	Brent Honeywell Bowling Green (Rays)	Riley Ferrell Quad Cities (Astros)	Francis Martes Quad Cities (Astros)	Brent Honeywell Bowling Green (Rays)	Ross Seaton West Michigan (Tigers)
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE	Ozzie Albies Rome (Braves)	Ryan O'Hearn Lexington (Royals)	John Johnson Savannah (Mets)	Jorge Mateo Charleston (Yankees)	Jorge Mateo Charleston (Yankees)	Sam Coonrod Augusta (Giants)	Michael Kopech Greenville (Red Sox)	Sam Coonrod Augusta (Giants)	Jordan Guerrero Kannapolis (White Sox)	Spencer Adams Kannapolis (White Sox)



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Oliver Drake Norfolk (Orioles)	Elias Diaz Indianapolis (Pirates)	Jesus Aguilar Columbus (Indians)	Alen Hanson Indianapolis (Pirates)	Matt Davidson Charlotte (White Sox)	Francisco Lindor Columbus (Indians)	Richie Shaffer Durham (Rays)	Jackie Bradley Pawtucket (Red Sox)	Dariel Alvarez Norfolk (Orioles)	Francisco Lindor Columbus (Indians)	Joel Skinner Charlotte (White Sox)
Sam Tuivailala Memphis (Cardinals)	Tomas Telis Round Rock (Rangers)	Efren Navarro Salt Lake (Angels)	Wilfredo Tovar Las Vegas (Mets)	Matt Dominguez Colorado Springs (Brewers)	Miguel Rojas New Orleans (Marlins)	Javier Baez Iowa (Cubs)	Tommy Pham Memphis (Cardinals)	Rymer Liriano El Paso (Padres)	Corey Seager Oklahoma City (Dodgers)	Brian Poldberg Omaha (Royals)
Mychal Givens Bowie (Orioles)	Pedro Severino Harrisburg (Nationals)	Greg Bird Trenton (Yankees)	Kelby Tomlinson Richmond (Giants)	Yandy Diaz Akron (Indians)	Gift Ngoepe Altoona (Pirates)	Erik Gonzalez Akron (Indians)	Roman Quinn Reading (Phillies)	Aaron Judge Trenton (Yankees)	Aaron Judge Trenton (Yankees)	David Wallace Akron (Indians)
Silvino Bracho Mobile (Diamondbacks)	Justin O'Conner Montgomery (Rays)	Danny Hayes Birmingham (White Sox)	Heiker Meneses Chattanooga (Twins)	Brandon Drury Mobile (Diamondbacks)	Orlando Arcia Biloxi (Brewers)	Orlando Arcia Biloxi (Brewers)	Byron Buxton Chattanooga (Twins)	Gabby Guerrero Mobile (Diamondbacks)	Byron Buxton Chattanooga (Twins)	Doug Mientkiewicz Chattanooga (Twins)
Trevor Gott Arkansas (Angels)	Roberto Pena Corpus Christi (Astros)	Jonathan Rodriguez Springfield (Cardinals)	Angel Franco Northwest Arkansas (Royals)	Brian Hernandez Arkansas (Angels)	Raul A. Mondesi Northwest Arkansas (Royals)	Raul A. Mondesi Northwest Arkansas (Royals)	Travis Jankowski San Antonio (Padres)	Hunter Renfroe San Antonio (Padres)	Carlos Correa Corpus Christi (Astros)	Razor Shines Tulsa (Dodgers)
Jake Smith San Jose (Giants)	Beau Taylor Stockton (Athletics)	Cody Bellinger Rancho Cucamonga (Dodgers)	Branden Cogswell Stockton (Athletics)	Ryan McMahon Modesto (Rockies)	Domingo Leyba Visalia (Diamondbacks)	Matt Chapman Stockton (Athletics)	Brett Phillips Lancaster (Astros)	Royce Bolinger High Desert (Rangers)	Brett Phillips Lancaster (Astros)	Bill Haselman Rancho Cucamonga (Dodgers)
Matt Marksberry Carolina (Braves)	Spencer Kieboom Potomac (Nationals)	Jacob Rogers Myrtle Beach (Cubs)	Ramon Torres Wilmington (Royals)	Jeimer Candelario Myrtle Beach (Cubs)	Johan Camargo Carolina (Braves)	Jeimer Candelario Myrtle Beach (Cubs)	Connor Lien Carolina (Braves)	Bradley Zimmer Lynchburg (Indians)	Bradley Zimmer Lynchburg (Indians)	Mark Johnson Myrtle Beach (Cubs)
Akeel Morris St. Lucie (Mets)	Reese McGuire Bradenton (Pirates)	Dominic Smith St. Lucie (Mets)	Jeff McNeil St. Lucie (Mets)	Brian Anderson Jupiter (Marlins)	Amed Rosario St. Lucie (Mets)	Willy Adames Charlotte (Rays)	Yefri Perez Jupiter (Marlins)	Clint Coulter Brevard County (Brewers)	Willy Adames Charlotte (Rays)	Luis Rojas St. Lucie (Mets)
Trevor Hildenberger Cedar Rapids (Twins)	Brian Navarreto Cedar Rapids (Twins)	Casey Gillaspie Bowling Green (Rays)	Tucker Neuhaus Wisconsin (Brewers)	Zach Houchins Burlington (Angels)	Nick Gordon Cedar Rapids (Twins)	Yairo Munoz Beloit (Athletics)	Michael Gettys Fort Wayne (Padres)	Alex Verdugo Great Lakes (Dodgers)	Gleyber Torres South Bend (Cubs)	Jake Mauer Cedar Rapids (Twins)
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His fastball command is special. That's the separator. He's only 21 and he commands the fastball

NATIONAL LEAGUE SCOUT ON LUIS SEVERINO



PRESENTS

THE CAPTAIN'S CATCHER'S AWARD

The Captain's Catcher's Award recognizes the defensive qualities of minor league catchers. Inspired by the catching skills and character of Jason Varitek, this award is only about catching and who plays the position to the fullest. The best catchers are detail oriented and driven to improve their performance behind the plate. Leadership, dedication, the ability to call a game, blocking, receiving, and making plays are the primary qualities sought after—with the ultimate goal of protecting home.

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**ROBERTO
PENA**
HOUSTON



ANDREW WOOLLEY

Born: June 8, 1992. **B-T:** B-R. **Ht:** 6-0. **Wt.:** 217. **Drafted:** HS-Caguas, PR., 2010 (7th round). **Signed by:** Joey Sola.

As long as Pena is in the minors, he's a solid candidate for the Captain's Catcher award because of his framing, receiving and an amazingly accurate arm. It's not hard to find catcher's with better arm strength, but Pena puts the ball on the bag throw after throw which explains how he's throwing out more than 50 percent of basestealers for a second consecutive season. There are few questions about Pena defensively, but his bat has to continue to improve to get him to the big leagues.

2015 CAPTAIN'S CATCHERS AWARD WATCH LIST							
Player	PCT	G	E	PB	SBA	CS	PCT
Armando Araiza, Tampa Bay	.983	63	8	7	64	28	.438
Elias Diaz, Pittsburgh	.987	45	4	1	38	10	.263
Mitch Garver, Minnesota	.998	54	1	5	53	18	.340
John Hicks, Seattle	.979	51	8	3	60	27	.450
Reese McGuire, Pittsburgh	.987	65	7	5	78	22	.282
Tom Murphy, Colorado	.983	58	7	7	38	15	.395
Justin O'Conner, Tampa Bay	.981	69	12	12	42	19	.452
Roberto Pena, Houston	.995	49	2	2	35	18	.514
Pedro Severino, Washington	.987	70	7	8	69	27	.391
Tony Wolters, Cleveland	.994	56	3	3	77	38	.494

MOVE FORWARD RISE ABOVE™

Johnson makes bigs, breaks the mold

BOSTON | Red Sox

BY ALEX SPEIER



For statistics, organization reports, prospect lists and recent drafts, check out: baseballamerica.com/t/organization-reports/

BOSTON Most first-rounders who fly through the minors do so on the strength of power breaking stuff and a fastball capable of lighting up radar guns. Lefthander **Brian Johnson** represents a departure from that norm.

The 24-year-old made his big league debut on July 21 against the Astros in Minute Maid Park. In that contest—in which he took the loss after allowing four runs in four innings—just three of his 87 pitches registered at 90 mph or above.

In an era when many pitchers equate velocity with success, Johnson has dominated minor league competition by subtracting from his

fastball as much as adding to it.

“He’s got the ability to throw harder, but he’s figured it out,” said Johnson’s college coach at Florida, **Kevin O’Sullivan**. “He’s figured it out at an early age. He’s always been able to throw strikes, locate pitches and change speeds. That’s what the really good ones do.”

Johnson, a first-round pick in 2012, was hit with a line drive up the middle in his fourth pro game that resulted in multiple orbital fractures and a disrupted offseason that diminished his arm strength at the start of 2013. But after a strength rebuilding program in the middle of that year, he forged a 2.22 ERA while moving across four full-season levels, performing as the most consistent starter in the Red Sox system.

He did that again in 2014, going 8-6, 2.73 with 81 strikeouts and 26 walks in 86 innings at Triple-A Pawtucket. He spent most of the season at Double-A Portland and, all told, ranked eighth in the minors in ERA (2.13),

fourth in WHIP (0.97) and fourth in opponent average (.197).

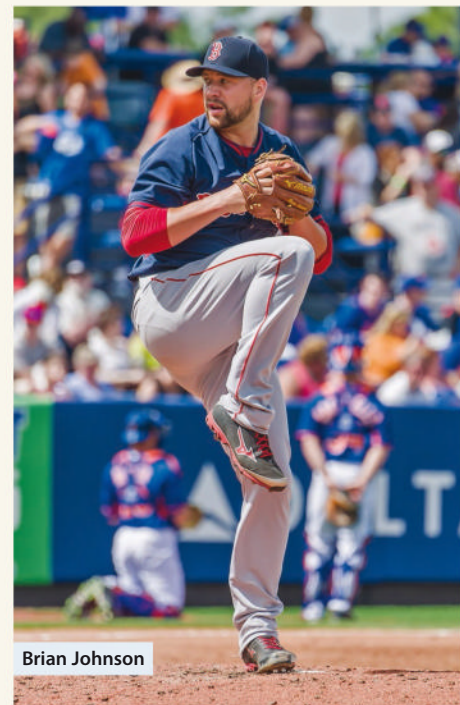
While Johnson features a curveball that can grade as plus, the rest of his four-pitch mix (fastball, changeup and cutter/slider) is closer to average. Yet his ability to sequence pitches and change locations has resulted in an ability to miss barrels and create bad contact.

“Everyone thinks home runs and velocity get you to the big leagues, so (Johnson is) a little unique,” vice president of amateur and international scouting **Amiel Sawdaye** said. “It’s a little bit of his personality. He’s a smart kid who understands the game really well.”

SOX YARNS

■ **Michael Kopech** received a 50-game suspension for testing positive for Oxilofrine, a banned amphetamine found in supplements. The 2014 first-rounder posted a 2.63 ERA with 9.7 strikeouts per nine innings at low Class A Greenville.

■ At 18, third baseman **Rafael Devers** became the youngest Red Sox player ever to participate in the Futures Game.



Brian Johnson

ED WOLSTEIN

BALTIMORE | Orioles

BY ROCH KUBATKO

O’s Will Wait For Connaughton

BALTIMORE The Orioles are waiting for righthander **Pat Connaughton** to decide whether he wants to refocus on his baseball career or continue to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA.

Drafted in the second round of the 2015 NBA draft by the Brooklyn Nets, Connaughton immediately headed to the Portland Trail Blazers in a trade. He remains on the Orioles’ minor league restricted list.

The Orioles selected Connaughton in the fourth round of the 2014 draft out of Notre Dame, knowing that baseball may not be his first choice. He went 0-1, 2.45 in 15 innings at short-season Aberdeen in 2014, making four starts among his six appearances and striking out 10 batters in 15 innings.

Connaughton ranked as the organization’s No. 11 prospect following the season. However, his offseason was unlike most prospects: He led the Fighting Irish to the Elite Eight in the NCAA basketball tournament as a senior and wanted to take a shot at the NBA.

“His contract is currently on the Aberdeen roster, and he’s on the (restricted) list because he didn’t report,” executive vice president **Dan Duquette** told MASNSports.com. “Our position is that he has a future in major league baseball and, eventually, he will come to that realization.”

Through the process of yearly renewals of minor league contracts, the Orioles hold the rights to Connaughton through the 2020 season. In the meantime, they could attempt to recoup at least a portion of his \$428,100 bonus if he makes the Trail Blazers roster.

“I don’t have a sense for how gifted a basketball player he is, but I do know that, with a little bit of time in the minors, that he could develop into a good pitcher,” Duquette said. “He has all the equipment to be a good major league starting pitcher. He has a lot of good qualities, and were he to apply himself to baseball, he could be a major league starter.”

BIRD SEED

■ Righthander **Hunter Harvey** was long-tossing on flat ground as part of his rehab throwing program in Sarasota, Fla. Diagnosed with a strained flexor mass, he received a platelet-rich plasma injection on May 18.

■ The Orioles failed to sign this year’s second-round pick, Flowery Branch (Ga.) High righty **Jonathan Hughes**, who chose to attend Georgia Tech. The Orioles will receive the 69th overall pick in 2016. The club signed 35 of its 41 selections.

NEW YORK | Yankees

BY GEORGE KING

Davis Matures As He Moves

NEW YORK When the Yankees gather for spring training, the message delivered from general manager **Brian Cashman** and manager **Joe Girardi** to the roughly 60 players in front of them is simple: Be ready because the big league club will need you at some point.

Rookie Davis might not be prepared to help the varsity this year, but the 22-year-old righthander is on track to be in that position one day.

Davis, a 14th-round pick in 2011 out of Dixon High in Holly Springs, N.C., has made big strides in his first season at high Class A Tampa. He went 5-5, 3.20 through 17 starts, registering 101 strikeouts and 16 walks in 90 innings.

This success comes after splitting time in 2013 at short-season Staten Island and low Class A Charleston and spending all of 2014 at Charleston.

“The biggest thing is that he grew up mentally and physically,” said pitching coordinator **Danny Borrell**, a former Yankees minor league pitcher. “There was never any issues off the field or anything like that, but he was a high school pitcher and high school pitchers need to grow up.”

A year ago, Davis went 7-8, 4.93 in 27 games with 106 strikeouts and 42 walks in 126 innings.

This season, he led the Florida State League in strikeouts, ranked fourth in WHIP (1.08) and had the third-lowest walk rate (1.5 per nine innings).

“Right now he has three major league pitches,” Borrell said of the 6-foot-3, 235-pound Davis. “His fastball command is good. He pitches at 93-95 (mph) and can top out a little higher.”

He also offers a curveball and a changeup.

YANKEE DOODLES

■ Second baseman **Rob Refsnyder**’s first taste of the big leagues lasted four games in which he batted .167 (2-for-12). Promoted from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in July, he played in two games at Boston and two at home against the Mariners. “I was never promised anything. I took it day by day,” he said. “I wasn’t expecting (to be sent down), but it’s a good experience, get your feet wet.”

■ Righthander **Bryan Mitchell** pitched well in relief, but the Yankees demoted him to Triple-A in July to work as a starter. A 16th-round pick in 2009 out of a North Carolina high school, he appeared in six big league games, posting a 2.89 ERA. He had nine strikeouts and two walks in nine innings.

TAMPA BAY | Rays

BY MARC TOPKIN

Shaffer Has Himself On Verge

ST. PETERSBURG Triple-A Durham third baseman **Richie Shaffer** insists he doesn’t spend a lot of time thinking about whether his strong performance since a late-May promotion from Double-A Montgomery will earn him a callup to the Rays.

“I’d be lying to say it doesn’t cross my mind,” Shaffer said at the Futures Game in July, “but I’ve got to actively push that away, focus on what you can control, not let outside factors dictate your day-to-day activities.”

The part that the 2012 first-round pick out of Clemson can control is what he has done with a bat in his hands, and his remarkably impressive performance has forced his future to be a subject of conversation for the Rays.

In his first 50 games at Durham, Shaffer hit .256/.347/.593 with 16 home runs, 28 RBIs and a 1.001 OPS. He arrived in Durham after hitting .262/.362/.470 with seven homers in 149 at-bats at Montgomery.

Shaffer, 24, struggled mightily with breaking pitches last season, hitting just .222/.318/.440 at Montgomery, but he worked in the offseason on plate discipline and adding strength.

“I think the confidence I got from the promotion (has helped),” Shaffer said. “The confidence I got from all the work I put in during the offseason, the adjustments that I made at the back end of last year—all of that combined has sort of created that little perfect storm of me feeling like I’m maximizing the tools that I have and kind of getting the most out of what I can bring.”

Shaffer has played primarily third base in the minors, but with **Evan Longoria** entrenched in the big leagues, he has seen time at first base as well—a sign that a September callup may be in his future.

Again, Shaffer isn’t thinking too much about it. “Who knows what the motivation was behind it?” he said. “I just look at it as another opportunity or avenue for me to possibly get to the big leagues.”

COOL RAYS

■ Lefthander **Blake Snell** returned from the Futures Game and after one start was promoted for the second time this season, from Montgomery to Durham. He started the season at high Class A Charlotte.

■ Catcher **Chris Betts**, a second-round pick in June out of Wilson High in Long Beach, Calif., signed an above-slot deal before the July 17 deadline and then went under the knife for Tommy John surgery that will delay his pro debut a year.

TORONTO | Blue Jays

BY SHI DAVIDI

Labourt Refining, Impressing

TORONTO Lefthander **Jairo Labourt** drew encouragement from a strong performance at the Futures Game, and he certainly picked up some confidence from his showing in the prospect showcase.

Labourt went 2-7, 4.71 through his first 16 starts at high Class A Dunedin and flashed his potential during a clean and crisp inning at Great American Ball Park, when he retired blue-chippers **J.P. Crawford** (strikeout on three pitches), **Kyle Schwarber** (groundout to shortstop) and **Richie Shaffer** (five-pitch strikeout).

“I feel very good, very happy,” Labourt said through an interpreter. “I’ve been working really hard, and I’ve to keep on working harder.”

Sporting a 95-96 mph fastball, 88 mph cutter, 85-86 mph changeup and 83 mph wipeout slider, Labourt’s control stood out. Nine of 11 pitches were strikes, a departure from his previous norms.

During his breakout at short-season Vancouver last summer, he still walked an excessive 4.7 batters per nine innings, and he had walked 5.2 this season.

Dane Johnson, the big league bullpen coach who worked closely with Labourt the past four years as the organization’s pitching coordinator, believes given time, it will come. He’s already seen the how the 21-year-old who signed out of the Dominican Republic in 2011 has worked to get himself into shape.

“What he’s done with his body to get himself in position to be able to compete on the mound and pitch as a starter is incredible,” Johnson said.

“He was a young kid with a lot of baby fat, a body type that needed to be slimmed down and the proportions put in the right places, and he did it. His diet needed to change along with his strength and conditioning program. He’s grown leaps and bounds in that area.”

JAYS CHATTER

■ The Blue Jays promoted righthander **Jeff Hoffman**, the ninth overall pick in the 2014 draft, to Double-A New Hampshire after the all-star break. A week later, they traded him to the Rockies as the headlining prospect in the **Troy Tulowitzki** deal.

■ Toronto also promoted center fielder **Dalton Pompey** from New Hampshire to Triple-A Buffalo. The Blue Jays want to see him maintain his success at Buffalo after hitting .346/.399/.531 in 30 games in the Eastern League.

Nola provides a ray of hope for Phillies

PHILADELPHIA | Phillies

BY JIM SALISBURY



For statistics, organization reports, prospect lists and recent drafts, check out: baseballamerica.com/t/organization-reports/

PHILADELPHIA Righthander **Aaron Nola** became the fifth member of the 2014 draft class to graduate to the majors when the rebuilding Phillies summoned him for his big league debut at home on July 21.

The 22-year-old Louisiana State product, selected No. 7 overall less than 14 months earlier, did not disappoint. He brought some electricity back to Citizens Bank Park by pitching six innings of five-hit, one-run ball against the Rays.

In typical Nola fashion, the command specialist showed excellent poise in walking only one and striking out six. In typical Phillies

fashion, the bats went cold in a 1-0 loss. Opposing starter **Nate Karns**, himself a rookie righty, smacked a solo home run leading off the third inning for the game's only run.

This Phillies season isn't about wins and losses. It's about player development. Third baseman **Maikel Franco** and second baseman **Cesar Hernandez** have shown promise. Nola is the latest ray of hope.

Nola arrived in the majors after just 30 professional appearances. He went 14-7, 2.57 in that time, registering 7.5 strikeouts per nine innings and a 1.06 WHIP. This season at Double-A Reading and Triple-A Lehigh Valley, he went 10-4, 2.39 in 18 starts.

"We had a plan for his development and felt it was time to execute it," general manager **Ruben Amaro Jr.** said. "We felt he was ready to pitch in the big leagues . . . We knew he'd be a fast mover."

The Phillies have cautiously overseen Nola's transition from Friday-night starter at LSU

to a pro five-man rotation. His Philadelphia debut took him to 115 innings for the season, and the Phillies plan to limit him to no more than 180 innings this year.

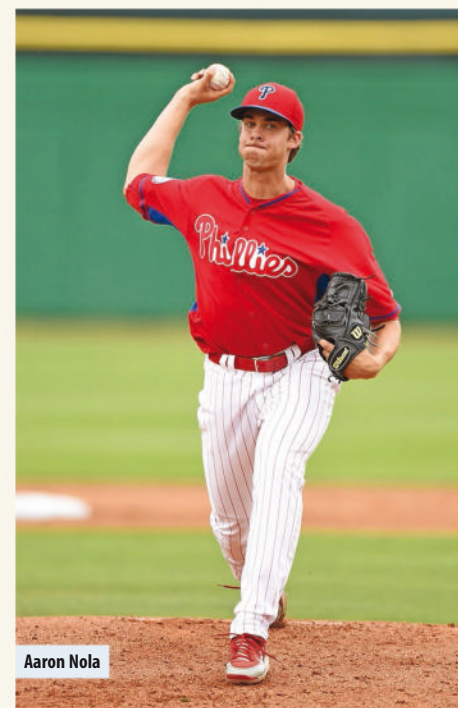
"We'll monitor (Nola's) workload," big league pitching coach **Bob McClure** said. "You have to. Including college, he threw 170-ish (innings) last year. This year, the innings are going to be more intense, so 170 to 180—I think I'd keep it right there."

"We monitored (reliever) **Ken Giles'** workload in his rookie season (of 2014). There were days he could have pitched, but didn't."

PHIL-UPS

■ The Phillies promoted 2010 first-round lefthander **Jesse Biddle** to Lehigh Valley after parts of three seasons and 58 starts at Reading.

■ Outfielder **Aaron Altherr** had played himself into a possible look in the majors this summer. Through 85 games at Reading and Lehigh Valley, he hit .294/.365/.482 with 10 homers and 24 doubles.



Aaron Nola

MINE JAMES

ATLANTA | Braves

BY BILL BALLEW

Daris Shows Steady Progress

ATLANTA Few players enter pro ball these days with as little experience as left fielder **Joseph Daris** did upon being selected by the Braves in the 14th round of the 2014 draft.

A standout running back during his high school days in Oceanside, Calif., Daris attended NCAA Division II Azusa Pacific, about 90 miles away, in hopes of tearing up the gridiron. Ultimately, he decided to go the other way, dropping football to focus on the diamond.

"In high school, baseball was mainly something to do in between football seasons," Daris said. "I didn't know what I was doing in baseball. I didn't even know how to swing a bat the right way."

Initially the shift to baseball featured a large amount of frustration and limited playing time. Daris' hard work began to pay dividends during his redshirt junior year, when he hit .377 for the Cougars.

He also impressed scouts by running the 60-yard dash in 6.3 seconds.

Daris began his pro career by hitting a combined .286 at two Rookie-level stops in 2014. Through 86 games at low Class A Rome this season, the 23-year-old had hit .279/.346/.420 with nine triples and 16 steals. He even made the South Atlantic League all-star team.

"I'm constantly making adjustments while trying to learn what works and what doesn't," Daris said. "I'm not worrying about my stats or anything like that. I have a good feel for how I'm playing, and I let everything else take care of itself."

Daris has made significant strides in his outfield routes and also shows excellent instincts on the basepaths. The lefthanded batter also shows a good feel for the strike zone with above-average hand-eye coordination.

"I'm encouraged with what I've been able to do," Daris said, "and we'll see how far I can take it."

WIGWAM WISPS

■ The Braves signed lefthander **Andrew Barbosa** out of the independent Atlantic League on July 9, and he fanned 12 batters over seven shutout innings for Double-A Mississippi less than 24 hours after joining the organization. The Diamondbacks had released Barbosa in April.

■ Rome lefthander **Ricardo Sanchez** landed on the disabled list for the second time this season in mid-July. He had issued 11 walks in 12 innings just prior to hitting the DL.

MIAMI | Marlins

BY WALTER VILLA

A Promising Start

MIAMI Normally, young minor league hitters struggle with breaking pitches but fare better when adjusting to fastballs.

The pattern appears to be the reverse for low Class A Greensboro catcher **Arturo Rodriguez**.

Rodriguez, who also plays first base, is attempting to be one of the first position players to make it from the Mexican League to the majors. Grasshoppers manager **Kevin Randel** calls him a "true professional hitter."

"He had a little bit of a slow bat early on," said Randel, who is in his first year as Greensboro manager. "Coming from the Mexican League, I don't think he was used to the rigors of spring training, and he didn't show very well."

"But I liked his professionalism, and he showed a good feel for spraying the ball around the yard on a consistent basis."

Rodriguez, a righthanded batter who turns 24 in October, batted .279/.326/.390 with eight home runs through his first 88 games in the U.S.

"He has a knack for hitting offspeed pitches," Randel said, "but it's a big transition from the Mexican League to here."

If Rodriguez makes it to the majors, his best chance may be at catcher, where Randel said his arm is accurate but slightly below-average in terms of strength.

"He calls a great game and blocks (pitches) well," Randel said. "He needs to continue to work on his defense and get in better shape, which should help pick up his bat speed."

The Marlins signed Rodriguez, who is from Monterrey, last December after he hit .379/.421/.618 with 15 home runs in 300 at-bats to rank third in the Mexican League in batting and slugging.

FISH BITES

■ Short-season Batavia center fielder **Stone Garrett**, a 2014 eighth-round pick from high school in Richmond, Texas, led the New York-Penn League with 15 extra-base hits through 29 games. "He is a very exciting athlete with a tremendous ceiling," director of player development **Brian Chattin** said. "The ball sounds different coming off his bat. Stone has above-average bat speed, and he just needs work on breaking-ball recognition and strike-zone awareness."

■ High Class A Jupiter center fielder **Yefri Perez** led the Florida State League with 45 steals through 93 games. The switch-hitter from the Dominican Republic had attempted steals (57) more than half the time he had reached first base.

NEW YORK | Mets

BY ADAM RUBIN

Power Prospect

NEW YORK While playing prep ball at Westminster Christian in Miami, third baseman **David Thompson** broke the school's home run record previously held by **Alex Rodriguez**. He also set the state of Florida's career homer mark, which previously had been held by **Prince Fielder**.

After helping lead Miami to its first College World Series appearance since 2008, the 21-year-old Thompson joined the Mets as the club's fourth-round pick this year.

Thompson hit .271 with three doubles, a triple and a home run through his first 24 games at short-season Brooklyn.

Scouting director **Tommy Tanous** described Thompson as a "middle-of-the-order bat with power" who "controls the zone well."

This season, Thompson led NCAA Division I with 90 RBIs in just 67 games. He nearly led the nation with 19 homers, too, but Arkansas outfielder **Andrew Benintendi** hit his 20th in Omaha to finish one ahead.

Thompson initially intended to play baseball and football for the Hurricanes.

A quarterback, he attended football meetings and practices only during his freshman year. He did not dress for games, though, because he was recovering from labrum surgery to his shoulder and wore a sling.

A frightening medical issue—thoracic outlet syndrome, as it turned out—sabotaged Thompson's sophomore baseball season. He first encountered trouble when he struggled to grip a bicycle he was riding.

"The next couple of days my arm swelled up and turned a little purple," Thompson said, "and I couldn't really feel my fingers in my right arm. It was very alarming. I went to the hospital and didn't get out for a couple of weeks."

Because of a broken vein in his right arm and clotting, blood flowed to his fingers but was unable to return. Doctors eventually removed Thompson's first rib as well as the troublesome vein, and he returned to baseball eight weeks later.

METAMORPHOSES

■ Righthander **Paul Sewald** (U.S.), second baseman **Yeixon Ruiz** (Dominican Republic) and righthander **Nabil Crismatt** (Colombia) represented the Mets organization in the Pan Am Games.

■ The Mets released third baseman **Dustin Lawley** and first baseman **Aderlin Rodriguez** from Double-A Binghamton.

WASHINGTON | Nationals

BY LACY LUSK

A Budding Talent

WASHINGTON As good a first impression as center fielder **Victor Robles** made, his second one has been even better.

The 18-year-old center fielder had been a force for manager **Michael Barrett** in the Rookie-level Gulf Coast League before the Nationals promoted him to short-season Auburn on July 19.

Robles hit .370/.484/.562 through 23 games to rank among the GCL leaders for average and on-base percentage. He also led the league with 12 stolen bases in 13 tries.

Robles signed for \$220,000 in 2013 and had a strong debut in his home country, batting .313/.408/.484 in 47 games in the Dominican Summer League last year. He stole 22 of 31 bases and has put in the time to improve his baserunning.

Farm director **Mark Scialabba** has been impressed with the willing approach the tool-sy Robles has taken to instruction.

"He continues to work diligently in all phases of the game and has a desire to continue to learn and grow as player," Scialabba said. "His dynamic skill set is complemented by his tremendous passion for the game, and his energy is infectious among his teammates."

Robles' best tool might be his arm, and his accuracy is coming along, too. His other tools aren't bad either. He had five homers through his first 325 pro at-bats, so he could develop power to go with his hitting ability and speed.

Defensively, Robles has shown a closing speed that helps him cover the gaps. Any concerns about him playing with too much energy seem to have dissipated.

"Victor Robles . . . impacts the game in all phases and has the potential to flash all five tools on a given day," Scialabba said. "He has an advanced approach at the plate, with plus bat speed and solid barrel control, especially for a player with his professional experience."

CAPITAL GAINS

■ The Nationals signed 16-year-old Dominican outfielder **Elvis Alvarado** for \$700,000. International scouting director **Johnny DiPuglia** said he profiles to play the corners with power and a plus arm.

■ Both of the organization's Futures Game participants made an impact in the U.S. team's 10-1 win in Cincinnati. High Class A Potomac righthander **Lucas Giolito** started and pitched two shutout innings. Triple-A Syracuse shortstop **Trea Turner** had a double, a triple and two RBIs in his two at-bats.

Montas gets brief taste of big leagues

CHICAGO | White Sox

BY SCOT GREGOR



For statistics, organization reports, prospect lists and recent drafts, check out: baseballamerica.com/t/organization-reports/

CHICAGO Righthander **Frankie Montas** joined the White Sox about one year earlier than expected.

Expected to contribute to the rotation or out of the bullpen in 2016, Montas was in Chicago on July 17 after being designated as the 26th player for a doubleheader against the Royals.

"When they said you've been called up to the big leagues I was like, 'Man don't play like that. Are you serious?'" Montas said.

The White Sox were serious, but they only carried Montas for one day before optioning him back to Double-A Birmingham.

"He throws hard," big league manager **Robin Ventura** said. "We saw him in spring training a little bit right before the season. You're excited about the kid. It's a good opportunity for him to come up here, and we also get to take a look at him."

So far, the White Sox have liked what they've seen from the 22-year-old Montas, who was acquired from the Red Sox in July 2013 in a three-team trade that also brought **Avisail Garcia** to Chicago from the Tigers and sent **Jake Peavy** to the Boston.

"It wouldn't shock me if it were similar to **Jose Quintana**, who originally came up for one 26-man experience (in 2012) and then returned," general manager **Rick Hahn** said. "If Montas followed the same path, we (would) see him again at some point this season."

If the White Sox deal veterans prior to the trade deadline, Montas could be back soon. He has worked as a starter at Birmingham

this season, going 3-1, 2.38 in 17 starts with the Barons.

Montas, who originally signed out of the Dominican Republic in 2009, also pitched for the world team in the Futures Game and was named to the Southern League all-star team.

With a fastball that regularly hits or exceeds 100 mph, Montas might be a closer in the major leagues. At this point, starting or relieving is not a concern.

"If they want me to be a starter, I'll start," Montas said. "If they want me in the bullpen, I'll go out to the bullpen. It doesn't matter."

CHI-LITES

■ Just less than a year after having Tommy John surgery, righthanded reliever **Nate Jones** began a rehab assignment at high Class A Winston-Salem. In his first two appearances with the Dash, he allowed one run in two innings.

■ After going 2-0, 0.75 in two starts, Triple-A Charlotte righthander **Kyle Drabek** was named International League pitcher of the week for July 6-12.



Frankie Montas

BILL MITCHELL

CLEVELAND | Indians

BY JIM INGRAHAM

Separate Paths

CLEVELAND They are both center fielders, drafted by the Indians in the first round: **Clint Frazier** in 2013, **Bradley Zimmer** in 2014.

Cleveland selected Frazier No. 5 overall in 2013 and Zimmer 21st overall in 2014. Not surprisingly, Zimmer has caught and passed Frazier on the Indians' developmental ladder. Zimmer was an advanced college hitter when the Indians drafted him, while Frazier was an elite high school slugger.

Just more than a year from the day he was drafted, the 22-year-old Zimmer had already galloped his way to Double-A Akron.

While Zimmer seems to be fast tracking his way to the majors, the 20-year-old Frazier is taking the more conventional path, especially for a high school player.

Frazier has spent all season at high Class A Lynchburg, where for half the season he played in the same outfield with Zimmer. In 366 at-bats over his first 97 games, Frazier hit .273/.364/.434 with 11 home runs and 51 RBIs. Perhaps more importantly, he had slashed his strikeout rate from 30 percent in 2014 to 23 percent this year.

"In the (eight-team) Carolina league, teams see each other over and over, and players are forced to make adjustments quickly to succeed," farm director **Carter Hawkins** said.

"That Clint has had success as one of the youngest players in the league is impressive. That his performance has improved as the book got out on him is even more exciting."

After playing center field last year at low Class A Lake County, Frazier moved to right field in the first half of 2015, when Zimmer played center field. With Zimmer moving on to Akron, Frazier has moved back to center.

"He's not just working hard, but working hard with a purpose, on both sides of the ball," Hawkins said.

"There are certainly many challenges ahead for Clint, but the way he's approached the ones given to him this season makes us feel great about his continued progress going forward."

SMOKE SIGNALS

■ **Dorssys Paulino**, whom the Indians moved from shortstop to left field in 2014 and spent the past two-plus years at Lake County, was promoted to Lynchburg at midseason.

■ Lynchburg outfielder **Mike Papi**, a 2014 sandwich pick who hit under .200 in the first two months of the season, has begun to put it together, hitting .299/.412/.456 since June 1.

DETROIT | Tigers

BY CHRIS IOTT

Late-Round Gem

DETROIT Not many players drafted in the 28th round make consistent progress toward the major leagues, but **Guido Knudson** has.

He has pitched well enough that he could quite possibly make that final big step to the majors before the 2015 season is over.

Knudson, a 25-year-old righthander and 2011 draft pick from UC San Diego, has turned in solid numbers this season in his first stint at Triple-A Toledo.

That shouldn't be a surprise. Knudson has pitched well at every step along the way and hasn't spent an inordinate amount of time at any level in the minors.

"He's got plus stuff," director of player development **Dave Owen** said. "His fastball can get up into the mid-90s. He'll settle in probably 90 (mph), 92-ish, but he can get up there and throw up some 95s. That'll get your attention . . . He's got some nice pitches to work with."

Knudson also throws a changeup and a slider. "That slider is better . . . but still not good enough," the righty said.

"My slider command has come a long way," Knudson said. "I have been working on that pitch the most to create more depth to it. I need to continue to improve command and continue to develop the slider. There are always things to improve upon each day."

Knudson gave credit to organization catchers **Bryan Holaday**, **Manny Pina** and **Miguel Gonzalez** for aiding in his success this season. He said he is much more willing to throw off-speed pitches in any situation based on their input and their confidence.

"They've really helped me learn a lot about pitch sequencing," Knudson said, "and they've shown confidence in offspeed pitches in any count."

Through his first 24 appearances at Toledo, Knudson had a 2.37 ERA, a 1.19 WHIP and 31 strikeouts in 30 innings. Opposing batters were hitting just .200 against him.

TIGER TALES

■ Righthander **Endrys Briceno**, who had Tommy John surgery last summer, has fared well in his return to game action. The 23-year-old struck out 16 in 11 innings in his first four outings in the Rookie-level Gulf Coast League.

■ Veteran lefty **Tom Gorzelanny** struggled in his first two Toledo outings after being removed from the 40-man roster and accepting an outright assignment. He allowed two hits and five walks while retiring three batters.

KANSAS CITY | Royals

BY ALAN ESKEW

Strikeout Machine

KANSAS CITY Lefthander **Matt Strahm's** name did not conjure up images of heralded prospects before this year.

He went to West Fargo (N.D.) High, where blizzards are more prevalent than baseball. Strahm received a baseball scholarship from Neosho County (Kan.) CC, where he thrived.

In 2012, Strahm led the NJCAA with 129 strikeouts as a sophomore, while throwing 11 complete games and setting nine school records. He committed to Nebraska but opted to sign with the Royals, who drafted him in the 22nd round.

After sitting out 2013 following Tommy John surgery, he threw just 20 innings at Rookie-level Idaho Falls in 2014.

"He was coming off a (lot) of innings at his junior college," assistant general manager **Scott Sharp** said, "then he got hurt the next spring, so you really don't know what you have. This is really his first full season back."

The Royals have a good idea what they have now: a 23-year-old strikeout machine. The 6-foot-4 Strahm has struck out 13 batters per nine innings through 22 games (four starts) this season. He initially worked as a reliever at low Class A Lexington before a promotion to high Class A Wilmington, where he made his first start on June 26.

On May 27 at Kannapolis, he struck out nine of the 10 batters he faced, walking one.

"He locates the ball well, keeps it down, and (batters) just don't see it," Sharp said. "He's kind of a tall, loose-arm guy, and I think there's a lot of deception in his delivery. Then you add in the velocity and (batters) just don't hit him."

"He gets a lot of swings and misses with his fastball. His fastball has a real easy finish to it."

Strahm's working velocity is 92-93 mph, but he has touched 96. He also throws a curveball and changeup.

"He has good control, good command," Sharp said. "His durability is fine after the surgery, and he still holds his velocity. He's not a one- or two-inning guy. He's just taken off."

ROYALTIES

■ Two starts after the Royals promoted lefthander **Sean Manaea** to Double-A Northwest Arkansas on July 20, they packaged him in a deal to the Athletics for **Ben Zobrist**.

■ Righthander **Miguel Almonte** made his Triple-A Omaha debut on July 17 at Nashville and allowed one hit in five innings while striking out eight and walking one.

MINNESOTA | Twins

BY PHIL MILLER

Head Scratcher

MINNEAPOLIS It seems like nearly everybody in the organization has a theory about why righthander **Alex Meyer** hasn't yet become a runaway success in the major leagues.

It's his confidence. It's his mechanics. It's his aggressiveness. Or his control. Perhaps his height.

One thing it's definitely not: His attitude. "He's still very positive, very determined," general manager **Terry Ryan** said. "This season hasn't been easy for him. I don't think any of us expected him to be scuffling like he has a little bit, but he's still upbeat (and) intent upon getting this turned around."

Meyer's raw ability has made him one of the Twins' brightest pitching prospect since the day Minnesota acquired him from the Nationals for **Denard Span** in November 2012, and he's ranked among the game's top 100 prospects for three years. But despite a fastball that can reach 97 mph, a curveball with 12-to-6 action and a career strikeout rate of 10.4 per nine innings, his 2015 season has been a setback.

The 25-year-old, drafted out of Kentucky in the first round in 2011, competed for a spot in the big league rotation this spring, then started for Triple-A Rochester on Opening Day. He made just eight starts, with a 7.09 ERA and 24 walks in 39 innings, before being sent to the bullpen "in order to let him clear his mind a little bit," Ryan said.

Meyer suddenly regained his dominating form, allowing only one run in 17 innings while striking out 20. With the Twins needing bullpen help, Meyer was quickly called up.

His control problems rejoined him in Minnesota. Meyer pitched twice, allowed five runs in 2⅓ innings and returned to Rochester.

"If you're pitching behind in the count, guys really only have to protect against one pitch: the fastball," big league manager **Paul Molitor** said. "When he does get ahead, the breaking ball becomes more effective. He gets guys to chase. But it doesn't work that way when he gets behind."

TWIN KILLINGS

■ The Twins signed veteran righthander **Scott Atchison** to a Double-A Chattanooga contract, but they agreed to release him 10 days later after deciding against calling him up.

■ The Twins promoted righthander **Jose Berrios**, who has started the last two Futures Games for the World team, to Rochester after posting a 3.08 ERA in 15 starts at Chattanooga.

Rodriguez smiles even after demotion

CINCINNATI | Reds

BY C. TRENT ROSECRANS



For statistics, organization reports, prospect lists and recent drafts, check out: baseballamerica.com/t/organization-reports/

CINCINNATI Outfielder **Yorman Rodriguez** got his fair share of airport time in July. He went from Indianapolis to Washington to Miami to Cincinnati (for the Futures Game) and then back to Louisville.

The Reds called up the 22-year-old Rodriguez shortly before the all-star break, and he joined the club in Washington when the team demoted righthander **Josh Smith** to Double-A Pensacola.

The Reds intended to keep Rodriguez in Cincinnati through the all-star break, but they needed another pitcher and activated righthander **Raisel Iglesias** to join the rotation.

That's when the Reds sent Rodriguez back to Triple-A Louisville, a move that allowed him to participate in the Futures Game. For someone who had just been demoted, he wore a broad smile at the Futures Game.

"You need to stay ready for whatever," Rodriguez said before the game. "I'm ready to play in the big leagues, Triple-A, whatever. Every player wants to play in the Futures Game."

Rodriguez has been among the team's top prospects since he signed a record \$2.5 million bonus as a 16-year-old out of Venezuela in 2008. Even though he has been around for seven pro seasons, he's still relatively young.

Of Rodriguez's more than 2,500 plate appearances in the minors, just 38 of those have come against a pitcher younger than him. Half of those occurred in 2012 when he started the season at low Class A Dayton.

Later that year he joined high Class A Bakersfield, where he was managed by **Ken**

Griffey Sr., the manager for the U.S. team in this year's Futures Game.

Griffey said Rodriguez's talent was evident in Bakersfield. It just took him time to mature.

"Yorman, to me, is a five-tool player," Griffey said. "He's got a great arm, speed, power, and he can hit for average. Defensively, he runs really well."

"When I had him, he was a young kid and he was learning to be away from home, so his attitude was a little tough, because he was young. He didn't understand all the things that were going on . . . The last couple of years, he's been playing pretty well."

RED HOTS

■ Pensacola catcher **Kyle Skipworth** homered in five straight games from July 10-16. After one game without a homer, he then hit another on July 19, giving him nine on the season at the point.

■ The Reds promoted righthander **Robert Stephenson** to Louisville, where he won his first three decisions.



Yorman Rodriguez

BILL MITCHELL

CHICAGO | Cubs

BY GORDON WITTENMYER

Cease Fires

CHICAGO Rookie-level Arizona League Cubs pitching coach **Ron Villone**, the former big league southpaw, left his post during a game and wandered behind the backstop while his young pitcher was throwing.

Farm director **Jaron Madison** asked Villone what he was doing, and the coach said he wanted to check the radar readings after 19-year-old righthander **Dylan Cease** told him he didn't feel good, that he felt "like nothing was coming out." The radar readings said something else: 94-95 mph.

The development of Cease, a 2014 sixth-round pick from Milton (Ga.) High who signed for \$1.5 million, might have emboldened the Cubs to gamble the No. 9 overall pick in the 2015 draft on prep lefthander **Brady Aiken**, who, like Cease, had Tommy John surgery performed when he was 18.

The Cubs instead took switch-hitting Cincinnati outfielder **Ian Happ** with their top pick, and the Indians selected Aiken eight slots later.

The Cubs, though, feel like they have their own version of Aiken in the 6-foot-2 Cease, who has similar power stuff.

In a farm system all but devoid of top-notch starting-pitcher prospects, Cease has a chance to rise quickly if the progress he has shown in 2015 continues.

Cease returned to the mound in the AZL in late June, where he already has hit 100 mph in games. Through six appearances and 14 innings, he had allowed five hits and four runs while striking out 11 and walking seven.

"Several times (he has hit 100 mph)," said Madison, who tempers his enthusiasm with caution when he talks about the best-case scenario for Cease. "Knock on wood."

Cease has a long way to go before the Cubs begin projecting a big league timeline. They plan to allow Cease to finish the short season in Arizona and then focus on instructional league this fall.

CUBBYHOLES

■ Short-season Eugene outfielder **Eloy Jimenez**, who signed for \$2.8 million in 2013, returned from 10-day disabled-list stint for a hamstring injury to produce five multi-hit games in his first eight games back.

■ The Cubs signed 34-year-old catcher **Luke Carlin**, a big league veteran, to a minor league deal and assigned him to Triple-A Iowa, helping cover the depth lost when **Kyle Schwarber** was recalled to Chicago.

MILWAUKEE | Brewers

BY TOM HAUDRICOURT

Second Chance

MILWAUKEE Sometimes, a minor league refresher course can do wonders for a player.

That certainly was the case for second baseman **Scooter Gennett**, whom the Brewers demoted to Triple-A Colorado Springs in late May to rediscover his approach at the plate.

The 24-year-old Gennett entered the 2015 season with a .300 career batting average in the majors after batting .297 in 464 games in the minors. But he got off to a horrid start in 2015, hitting just .154 before being optioned down on May 18.

Along the way, he landed on the disabled list after slicing a hand in a shower accident in Pittsburgh.

Gennett, who had platooned with veteran **Rickie Weeks** in 2013 and 2014, started losing playing time. And, as happens when a young player struggles, his confidence waned.

Rather than pout about the demotion, though, Gennett went to Colorado Springs and got to work with the right attitude. In 17 games there, he batted .307/.342/.507 and also worked on sharpening his defense.

"I think it was good," Gennett said of his time in the Pacific Coast League. "I got to play every day, even against lefties, which was awesome. Getting those at-bats against lefties and getting that confidence was a thing I don't think I was going to get the opportunity to do in the big leagues."

Gennett was a different player after returning to the Brewers. He hit .305/.346/.492 with 15 extra-base hits in his first 38 games back in the bigs.

Gennett still has a ways to go to establish himself as the Brewers' second baseman of the future, but getting back on the right track was huge for both player and team.

"Looking back, it was almost a blessing in disguise," he said, "just in the sense of being able to go down and just get back to playing every day."

MICROBREWS

■ The Brewers released 2009 second-round catcher **Cameron Garfield**. Milwaukee had five picks in the first two rounds that year, including first-round righthander **Eric Arnett**, but all five are out of the organization now.

■ Virginia lefthander **Nathan Kirby**, the 40th player taken in the 2015 draft, signed at the July 17 deadline. The two sides reportedly had agreed to a deal for more than the slot value of \$1,545,400, but Kirby ended up signing for \$1.25 million after an undisclosed medical concern arose.

PITTSBURGH | Pirates

BY JOHN PERROTTI

Tarpley Shines Against O's

PITTSBURGH The Pirates made news on July 7 when outfielders **Andrew McCutchen**, **Sean Rodriguez** and **Gregory Polanco** pulled a grounds crew member to safety when he got swept underneath the PNC Park tarp during a rain delay.

Quite fittingly, **Stephen Tarpley** also made headlines that night.

The lefthander pitched a six-inning no-hitter for low Class A West Virginia against Delmarva in a South Atlantic League game. Delmarva happens to be an Orioles farm club, and Baltimore drafted Tarpley in the third round of the 2013 draft from Scottsdale (Ariz.) CC.

The Orioles traded Tarpley and fellow lefty prospect **Steven Brault** to the Pirates in January for outfielder **Travis Snider**.

"It was very cool," Tarpley said. "It was kind of like a reunion, in a sense. I had a scouting report from what we've charted on them in past years we played them. And playing against them myself, I had my own kind of scouting report."

"So I just had to pitch to my plan and it obviously worked out."

Tarpley, 22, has been working out well for the Pirates after beginning the season on the disabled list with shoulder tendinitis and not making his debut with West Virginia until May 25.

However, in his first 10 starts and 53 innings, Tarpley went 6-2, 2.38 with 53 hits allowed, 46 strikeouts and 14 walks.

Brault, 23, also had showed promise in his first season in the organization. He went a combined 8-4, 3.10 through 21 starts at high Class A Bradenton and Double-A Altoona. He had struck out 91 and walked 29 through 107 innings.

PITTBURGERS

■ Righthander **Wilfredo Boscan** might eventually pitch in a major league game. The Pirates recalled him from Triple-A Indianapolis on July 12 for a game against the Cardinals, but he did not pitch and was sent back to Indy the next day. The same thing happened on May 16 when spent one day with the Pirates without seeing action. Boscan signed as a minor league free agent in the offseason.

■ Indianapolis first baseman **Hunter Morris** hit the disabled list with a sprained ankle at all-star break after hitting .132/.183/.151 with no home runs in 33 games. The Pirates acquired him from the Brewers in a spring trade, three years after he was named MVP of the Double-A Southern League.

ST. LOUIS | Cardinals

BY DERRICK GOOLD

First Things First

ST. LOUIS The Cardinals had spent some time during the first half of the season measuring prospect **Stephen Piscotty** for a promotion to the majors.

But before they would move him up, they asked him to move over. On his way to St. Louis, he had to spend some time at first base.

"He has to be 100 percent comfortable with that," general manager **John Mozeliak** said. "I think he'd rather play first base in the big leagues than outfield in (Triple-A) Memphis, right? Like anybody. If we felt this was his best way to the big leagues, we have to consider it."

The production the Cardinals received from first base through the first half of the season ranked among the worst in the game. A season-ending injury to **Matt Adams** and the rotation of **Mark Reynolds**, **Xavier Scruggs** and **Dan Johnson** left the team open to a fifth options at first, and Piscotty fit the opening.

The rangy, athletic right fielder had been drafted in the supplemental first round as a Stanford third baseman in 2012, and he played that position for a year in the minors. His throws weren't consistent enough to remain at third, though his arm strength was a good fit for right field, where he became one of the organization's best defensive corner outfielders.

Big league manager **Mike Matheny** had advocated Piscotty's move to first base over the winter, and shied away from using him there in spring training only because there were at least three other options ahead of him on the depth chart.

Piscotty, 24, played some first base in college and has familiarity with the infield that helped ease the transition.

"That first day out there—it was a little weird," said Piscotty, who hit .298/.370/.511 in July before his promotion. "That first inning, (I was) still getting a feel for the position and felt really close to the action. Now it's about seeing situations, getting comfortable with the footwork, holding runners."

REDBIRD CHIRPS

■ Righthander **Alex Reyes** returned from the disabled list and quickly received a planned promotion to Double-A Springfield, where he promptly hit 102 mph.

■ Double-A outfielder **Anthony Garcia** starred at the Pan Am Games in Toronto, leading Puerto Rico's team and the tournament in slugging. A righthanded bopper, Garcia had five home runs, 17 RBIs and a .964 slugging percentage.

Williams' patience reaping rewards

TEXAS | Rangers

BY JEFF WILSON



For statistics, organization reports, prospect lists and recent drafts, check out: baseballamerica.com/t/organization-reports/

ARLINGTON **Nick Williams** found himself in the Futures Game, landing in a spot that many thought he was good enough to reach—but only if he improved his approach at the plate.

Perhaps the most aggressive hitter in the Rangers system, Williams didn't necessarily need to start drawing walks, but he needed to start seeing more pitches and learn how opposing pitchers were attacking him.

He always has hit, surviving on raw ability. He needed more, though, if he hoped to realize his ceiling.

The toolsy, 6-foot-3 outfielder at Double-A Frisco went 1-for-2 with an RBI single and a

run scored as the U.S. team stormed past the World team at Great American Ball Park. His teammate at Frisco, fellow outfielder **Nomar Mazara**, went 2-for-3.

While Mazara is more advanced, the 21-year-old Williams has begun to show polish, too, thanks to being put into the leadoff spot and doing what leadoff hitters are supposed to do.

"I'm going to see every pitch he has, and it's going to set me up for the rest of the game," Williams said. "Take a couple pitches, don't swing at the first pitch—that has helped me. Taking the first pitch early in the season really helped me learn who I was as a hitter."

Williams, a second-round pick in 2012 from a Galveston, Texas, high school, already had set a career high for walks when he entered the Futures Game with 27. Those came in 350 plate appearances, making for a much better walk rate (7.7 percent) than 2014 (4.5 percent) or 2013 (3.7 percent).

The lefthanded batter had hit .299/.357/.479 through 97 games, thanks to a remarkable stretch in which he collected hits in his final eight at-bats before the Futures Game, and he had also improved his baserunning and defense in left and center field.

"There's a ton of upside there, and we're trying to hone in those skills now," said **Jason Wood**, Frisco's manager in 2014 before moving to Triple-A Round Rock. "He's taking off. Who knows? He's still climbing."

RANGER ROUNDUP

■ Frisco lefthander **Andrew Faulkner** converted from a starter to a reliever. He worked in a few one-inning spurts in spring training and left a favorable impression. The club also has a shortage of lefty relievers, with only **Jimmy Reyes** and **Will Lamb** at Triple-A.

■ The youngest player at the low Class A level continued to make an impression. Hickory shortstop **Michael De Leon**, 18, ranked among the most efficient South Atlantic League shortstops with a .974 fielding percentage.



Nick Williams

MINE JAMES

HOUSTON | Astros

BY JOSE DE JESUS ORTIZ

Getting Hooked

HOUSTON As general manager **Jeff Luhnow** maneuvered his club toward his first trade deadline as a buyer, opposing clubs were well aware of the Astros' deep farm system.

Double-A Corpus Christi—the Hooks' pitching staff, in particular—had been particularly deep this year, especially considering righthanders **Lance McCullers Jr.**, **Vince Velasquez** and **Michael Feliz** already had been called up to the majors.

Feliz has had two brief stints in the majors, but McCullers has stuck since May and Velasquez was on his second stint since his promotion on June 10.

Despite those departures, the Hooks' stable of arms remained quite strong: Feliz, righthanders **Chris Devenski**, **Kyle Westwood**, **R.J. Alaniz**, **Adrian Houser** and **Joe Musgrove** and 21-year-old lefty **Josh Hader**.

Devenski, in particular, had turned a corner. His 3.09 ERA and 1.20 WHIP ranked among the best in the Texas League.

"He's an animal on the mound," Corpus Christi pitching coach **Doug Brocail** said. "He has three legitimate pitches. He'll throw a backdoor coveball (and) a changeup."

Feliz, who has been used in relief when called up to Houston, went 5-2, 3.02 in 10 games with the Hooks. Musgrove went 10-1, 2.01 combined at low Class A Quad Cities, high Class A Lancaster and Corpus this year.

"I've had one hell of a staff," Brocail said.

Opposing organizations tend to agree, which is why several scouts have made pilgrimages to see the Hooks.

"Westwood's done a nice job," Luhnow said. "Devenski has been really under the radar, one of our top performers this year. He's really done a tremendous job. Those are the types of guys when other clubs are talking to us, we have a long list of guys."

"They don't all like the same players, but it's like a diner. There's a long menu of players. They find players they like and it makes conversations a lot easier for me."

SPACE SHOTS

■ Triple-A Fresno righthander **Mark Appel** drew praise for his scoreless inning at the Futures Games. "I think he did a really nice job at the . . . and he's going to continue to get starts at Triple-A," Luhnow said.

■ The Astros promoted first baseman **A.J. Reed** from Lancaster to Corpus Christi in mid-July. He hit .342/.444/.642 with 28 homers and 99 RBIs through 98 games.

LOS ANGELES | Angels

BY MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Deepening Depth Chart

ANAHEIM Lefthander **Andrew Heaney** made the most of his first big league opportunity with the Angels, going 3-0, 1.32 in four starts in place of the injured **Jered Weaver** to earn a second-half rotation spot.

So did **Nick Tropeano**, the 24-year-old righthander acquired from the Astros for backup catcher **Hank Conger** last winter. Unlike Heaney, though, Tropeano couldn't hit the extended-play button with the Angels.

Los Angeles called up Tropeano from Triple-A Salt Lake to make a spot start for **C.J. Wilson**, who had a sore elbow, and he did not disappoint, allowing five hits in six shutout innings, striking out five and walking one in a 2-0 win against the Athletics on April 23.

But Tropeano knew before he took the mound that he would be headed back to Salt Lake afterward, and sure enough, the Angels optioned him the next day.

From there, Tropeano's season took a month-long detour to the disabled list because of shoulder fatigue, but he returned in late June and has re-established himself as the next in line should the Angels need a starter this summer.

In the first five starts after his return, Tropeano pitched to a 2.63 ERA, striking out 28 and walking six in 24 innings to improve to 3-4, 4.18 on the season.

"It's not just the five at the big league level," big league manager **Mike Scioscia** said, speaking of the importance of pitching depth. "It's Nos. 6, 7 and 8, wherever they are."

The Angels didn't have rotation depth last season, turning two rotation spots into "bullpen games" in September after **Garrett Richards** and **Matt Shoemaker** were injured.

The 6-foot-4 Tropeano doesn't have the pure stuff to be a front-of-the-rotation starter. He mixes a deceptive fastball that sits in the low 90s with an excellent changeup and improving slider. But his mental toughness and ability to work his way out of jams should make him a solid No. 4 or 5 starter.

ANGEL FOOD

■ Reliever **Michael Smith**, a righthander who went 6-1, 1.98 in 27 games at high Class A Inland Empire, had Tommy John surgery in early July.

■ Former Triple-A manager **Keith Johnson**, who had been serving as a roving infield instructor this season, replaced **Rico Brogna** as the organization's player-information coach. Brogna moved to a pro scouting role.

OAKLAND | Athletics

BY CASEY TEFERTILLER

Not So Fast

OAKLAND From the time righthander **Brett Graves** started launching pitches in Little League, he lived by the fastball. That all changed when he reached the pro ranks.

His future will be determined by how well he learns to use his secondary pitches to complement that effective heater. So far, the results are impressive.

"Right now, I think his best pitch is his changeup," pitching coordinator **Garvin Alston** said.

The 2014 third-round pick from Missouri had produced early results. Through 21 starts at low Class Beloit, Graves went 9-5, 5.13 with 67 strikeouts and 39 walks in 109 innings. His ERA ballooned early in the year when his fastball lacked velocity and he shied away from his offspeed offerings.

"I think the biggest thing is getting comfortable throwing my offspeed pitches more," Graves said. "I've always been a guy who throws harder. I relied on my fastball a lot in high school and college."

That fastball remains his signature pitch. It tops out at 95 mph with movement, but he now averages around 91 and embraces variety.

"The secondary stuff is coming along great," Alston said. "His changeup has become a swing-and-miss pitch for him. It has improved dramatically."

Finding the right breaking ball remains a work in progress. The coaches are working with Graves to get more horizontal movement, rather than a straight drop on his curve.

The 6-foot-1, 170-pound Graves grew up in St. Charles, Mo., and carries the comfortable tones of the Midwest in his voice. Drafted in the 26th round out of high school by the Cardinals, he chose instead to attend Missouri, where he spent three years as a starter, going 3-6, 3.87 his junior year.

What impresses Alston most is Graves' desire to improve. The 22-year-old keeps pumping his coaches to learn more about the art of pitching, exchanging ideas on how to retire hitters and improve his skills.

A'S ACORNS

■ Righthander **Raul Alcantara** has been working short stints at high Class A Stockton in his caution recovery program from Tommy John surgery.

■ Outfielder **Seth Brown**, a 2015 19th-rounder, has impressed farm director **Keith Lieppman**. Brown was hitting .305 with 12 walks in 25 games at short-season Vermont.

SEATTLE | Mariners

BY RYAN DIVISH

Center Stage

SEATTLE In an expected move, the Mariners have started playing **Ketel Marte** in center field at Triple-A Tacoma. It's something he'd never done in his career.

"I think we want to expose him to playing a few different positions," director of player development **Chris Gwynn** said. "He needs to get familiar with center field."

There's no set number of times per week that Marte will play center field, but it will be the majority of the time.

"He'll be in the outfield quite a bit," general manager **Jack Zduriencik** said. "He's game for it."

The Mariners actually approached the 21-year-old Marte about beginning to do some pregame work in the outfield on May 31.

"We had him sit down with our coaches to explain the reasoning," Zduriencik said. "They told him this is what makes sense for you and the Mariners. It doesn't mean you are not a shortstop or a second baseman. We value his offensive skill set and his versatility."

The 6-foot-1, 165-pound Marte broke a thumb while running the bases that very night and missed the next six weeks recovering. He returned to playing a few days before the all-star break and participated in the Futures Game, playing second base, and in the Triple-A all-star game as the Pacific Coast League starting shortstop. He hit .314/.359/.410 through 65 games.

"Once he got healthy and started playing again, (playing center field) was something we still wanted to keep exploring," Gwynn said. "It's not like he won't ever play shortstop again."

Beyond the desire of versatility, there was a growing feeling from opposing scouts and some people in the organization that Marte might not project as an everyday shortstop from a defensive standpoint. Questions about Marte's arm strength and ability to get rid of the ball quickly were prevalent.

MARINADE

■ The Mariners shut down lefthander **Danny Hultzen** for the second time this season with more fatigue in his surgically-repaired shoulder.

■ After struggling in his first pro season, Rookie-level Arizona League outfielder **Gareth Morgan**—a second-round pick 2014—had hits in eight of nine games with two doubles, a triple, three homers and six RBIs.

Reinheimer shines in D-backs debut

ARIZONA | Diamondbacks

BY JACK MAGRUDER



For statistics, organization reports, prospect lists and recent drafts, check out: baseballamerica.com/t/organization-reports/

PHOENIX When the Diamondbacks acquired shortstop **Jack Reinheimer** from the Mariners in a package for **Mark Trumbo**, one of their top pro scouts called him “our kind of guy.”

Arizona more than kind of likes what it has seen from Reinheimer, who has been the regular shortstop at Double-A Mobile since the six-player trade on June 3 that also landed the D-backs catcher **Wellington Castillo** and Mobile outfielder **Gabby Guerrero**.

Reinheimer, the Mariners’ fifth-round pick out of East Carolina in 2013, was hitting .275/.342/.380 with 10 doubles, 16 RBIs and five stolen bases in his first 44 games

in Mobile. Hitting mostly first or second in the order, he had been particularly effective in high leverage situations, hitting .321 with runners in scoring position and .313 when leading off an inning.

“A really good-looking player,” vice president of baseball operations **De Jon Watson** said. “Tooled up. Above-average runner. Line drive, gap guy with emerging power. Don’t think he is going to have tremendous over-the-fence power, but he does have some power to his game.”

At 6-foot-1, 186 pounds Reinheimer had a strong debut in his first full season in 2014, hitting .276/.338/.355 with 22 doubles, 58 RBIs and 39 stolen bases while committing just 16 errors at two Class A levels.

“He is a middle-of-the-diamond player, whether it be shortstop or second base,” Watson said. “I think he is definitely capable of playing (shortstop). His arm plays solid-average to slightly above, and the hands were

above when I saw him.”

Reinheimer, 23, had made just two errors in 163 chances with the BayBears this season.

The trade has worked on several levels for Arizona, which needed a catcher because of a spate of injuries at that spot and also added organizational depth, a priority since new general manager **Dave Stewart** came aboard.

“It was a good haul for us to bring back,” Watson said. “The shortstop is a really good player.”

SNAKE BITES

■ Triple-A Reno third baseman **Brandon Drury** was hitting .352/.400/.500 in 128 at-bats since being promoted from Mobile in late June. The 22-year-old has split time between second and third base at both stops after being introduced to the keystone late last season.

■ Mobile outfielder **Socrates Brito** had a strong spurt on either side of his participation in the Futures Game. He hit .369/.431/.646 with three doubles, three triples, three homers, 12 RBIs and five steals in 19 games from June 20-July 17.



Jack Reinheimer

BILL MITCHELL

COLORADO | Rockies

BY JACK ETKIN

Dahl Gives Up Spleen To Play

DENVER Double-A New Britain center fielder **David Dahl** made a determined recovery from a serious injury and avoided having to endure another lost season.

On May 28, Dahl was charging for a short fly ball when he collided with second baseman **Juan Ciriaco**. Both players were running at full speed. Dahl suffered a lacerated spleen that was repaired in emergency surgery. On June 1, he had surgery in Hartford, Conn., to have his spleen removed.

“The best thing for David’s life was to get that spleen out of there,” farm director **Zach Wilson** said. “A nice side effect of that, there was a chance he would return (this season). I’m glad we’re getting another month and a half out of him this year, because I was fearful we wouldn’t.”

In 2013 at low Class A Asheville, Dahl played just 10 games, largely due to hamstring and back injuries. He made up for that lost time by playing 90 games at Asheville and 29 at high Class A Modesto in 2014, combining to hit .299/.335/.492 with 41 doubles, 14 homers and 55 RBIs.

At the time of his injury, Dahl, the 10th overall pick in 2012 from high school in Birmingham, was trending upward. He hit .307/.320/.436 in May.

On July 6, he began a six-game rehab assignment at short-season Boise that afforded him 24 at-bats. And on July 17, the 21-year-old returned to New Britain.

Had he not had his spleen removed, Dahl would have had to play with a protective covering and would have risked the spleen rupturing in a collision. And that would have been no small risk for the hell-bent Dahl, who has yet to shy away from an outfield wall.

“The best thing about the spleen removal is he can play without fear,” Wilson said. “Now he can play as he’s used to with the passion and energy he’s used to without holding anything back. And that’s the most important thing for him.”

ROCKY ROADS

■ Lefthander **Harrison Musgrave**, 23, earned a promotion to New Britain after going 10-1, 2.88 in 16 starts at Modesto. The 2014 eighth-round pick out of West Virginia averaged 8.2 strikeouts and 1.9 walks per nine innings.

■ Outfielder **Jordan Patterson**, 23, moved up to New Britain after hitting .304/.378/.568 at Modesto with 26 doubles, 10 homers and 43 RBIs in 303 at-bats.

LOS ANGELES | Dodgers

BY BILL PLUNKETT

July 2 Fireworks

LOS ANGELES The annual draft is a red-letter day on the calendar of every front office in baseball. But the Dodgers had another day circled this year: July 2.

Leveraging their vast financial resources, the Dodgers used the first day of the international signing period for a talent infusion to their farm system that rivals draft day. Committing more than \$22 million, they signed nine international free agents, including well-regarded Cuban righthander **Yadier Alvarez**.

Taking it a step farther, they essentially bought four more prospects from the Blue Jays and Braves—righthander **Chase DeJong** and second baseman **Tim Lincecum** from Toronto and righthander **Caleb Dirks** and outfielder **Jordan Paroubeck** from Atlanta—by trading their international bonus slots for minor league players.

Since the Dodgers were going well past their \$2.02 million in assigned slot money and would incur the penalties that come with that, the bonus slots were meaningless to them.

“We felt if we were going to exceed the cap, let’s make it count and get as many of the guys we like as possible,” senior vice president of baseball operations **Josh Byrnes** said. “Whether it’s this arena, the draft or trades—since I walked in everyone from (team president) **Stan Kasten** and ownership on down, they have said we’re going to do everything we can to build our talent flow through our system.”

“Any place we can be aggressive and scout and find players, we’ll take that approach.”

Because of their spending binge on the international market, the Dodgers will be limited in the next two signing periods and will not be able to sign an international free agent for more than a \$300,000 bonus.

The July 2 haul became even more important when the Dodgers failed to sign first-rounder **Kyle Funkhouser**, a righthander from Louisville.

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL

■ The Dodgers recognized the influence of long-time minor league manager and coach **John Shoemaker** by creating the title of “captain” of player development. The manager at Rookie-level Ogden this year, he will wear a “C” on his jersey.

■ Righthander **Chris Anderson** pitched the first complete game of his career, a four-hitter for Double-A Tulsa in July. In his first four starts in the second half he went 3-1, 2.39 with a 1.03 WHIP.

SAN DIEGO | Padres

BY TOM KRASOVIC

No Power? No Problem

SAN DIEGO Corner outfielder **Nick Torres** may need to hit more home runs some day.

What Torres is showing he can do now, four months into his first full season, is bang out hits with rare consistency.

Torres, a righthanded batter with average foot speed, hit .326/.378/.462 at low Class A Fort Wayne through 77 games this year.

He rose to high Class A Lake Elsinore in early July and got off to a .323 (21-for-65) start with nine extra-base hits through 16 games. He has hit .300 or better in each month this season.

The 22-year-old Torres never has emerged as a prolific home run hitter. He was exclusively a pitcher as a high school junior in Southern California. For Cal Poly, he hit six home runs as a junior in 2014 before the Padres took him in the fourth round that June.

His home run total through 93 games this year was three.

“He doesn’t sell out for home runs,” assistant general manager **Josh Stein** said. “If you watch his swing, he’s not one of these let-it-rip (hitters).”

With 29 doubles in 77 games, Torres kept Midwest League outfielders honest.

Doubles may portend home runs, or they may not. Padres first baseman **Yonder Alonso**, for example, hasn’t developed the home run power the Padres gleaned from a 39-double rookie season, and Alonso was a slugger for Miami.

Torres is still filling out a 6-foot-1, 210-pound frame.

“The goal is to develop more power as he gets a better sense of his swing and how it plays against different competition,” Stein said.

“It’s one of those things that . . . he’s not exactly old for where he’s playing, and his progression is good.”

FATHER FIGURES

■ Center fielder **Travis Jankowski** had a team-high seven hits in Team USA’s first three games of the Pan Am Games at Toronto. He hit a home run in the 5-3 win against Colombia on July 14. Jankowski, 24, hit .313/.394/.392 in 72 games at Double-A San Antonio this season.

■ Fort Wayne shortstop **Ruddy Giron** and second baseman **Luis Urias**, both 18, are a few years younger than the Midwest League average, but both had produced at the plate. Giron hit .307/.352/.465 through 62 games, while Urias, hit .393/.452/.417 through 21 games.

SAN FRANCISCO | Giants

BY ANDY BAGGARLY

Health Matters For Osich

SAN FRANCISCO It was something different every year for lefthander **Josh Osich**.

Irritated ulnar nerve. Irritated radial nerve. Torn subscapularis muscle in his upper back. Shoulder inflammation that wouldn’t subside.

“I was getting hurt every year, and yeah, I was getting close to hanging ‘em up,” the 26-year-old Osich said. “I was just happy to be healthy this year.”

The Giants knew from the moment Osich slid to them in the sixth round of the 2011 draft that if he could stay healthy, the former Oregon State ace had the stuff to move quickly to the big leagues. That’s where Osich found himself July 3 after the Giants called him up.

His 96 mph fastball, cutter and downward-breaking changeup was more than adequate against major league hitters, too. In his first two appearances, he retired the Nationals’ **Bryce Harper** twice. He didn’t give up a hit until his eighth big league outing, and hadn’t allowed an earned run in nine appearances when the Giants sent him back to Triple-A Sacramento.

Osich was among the best collegiate pitchers in his draft class before having Tommy John surgery on his elbow as a junior at Oregon State and then dealing with some shoulder issues in his senior year. He struck out 13 while throwing a no-hitter against UCLA (and **Trevor Bauer**).

“He’s electric,” said Giants catcher **Andrew Susac**, who overlapped for two seasons with Osich in Corvallis but only caught him a few times because one or the other was injured. “He’s always thrown hard. You can expect to see 97-98 (mph) with a really plus changeup. And he’s got a cutter now, I’ve heard, that might be his best pitch.”

Osich dominated as the closer at Double-A Richmond this season, posting a 1.59 ERA in 31 appearances while striking out 34 and walking 10 in 34 innings. He saved 19 out of 20.

GIANTICS

■ Center fielder **Johneshwy Fargas** stole his 50th and 51st bases of the season in a late July game at low Class A Augusta. He had seven steals over a four-game span.

■ Lefthander **Nik Turley** had a night to remember on July 20, striking out eight of the first nine batters he faced and throwing a no-hitter through six innings before leaving with a high pitch count in Sacramento’s 5-4 win against El Paso.

Subway split: Is it Judge or Conforto?

BY JOSH NORRIS

As they've risen through the minor leagues, corner outfielders Michael Conforto and Aaron Judge have presented scouts and evaluators with a puzzle. Do you want the player with plenty of physical equals throughout the game's history, whose success seems all but guaranteed, or do you want the player who breaks the mold with his combination of size, physicality and pure power?

Conforto, the Mets' first-rounder out of Oregon State in 2014, already has made his major league debut this season. It's a move the Mets hope will inject a stagnant lineup with both youth and power.

Judge, a Yankees first-round pick from Fresno State in 2013, is knocking on the door at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and looks primed to take a spot in the Bronx before the year is up.

Both seemed destined for stardom on the game's biggest stage, with the only question a matter of degree.

With that in mind, which player do you want?

Talk To The Judge

Because he's 6-foot-7 and 275 pounds, Judge has very few physical equals in the game, both now and in the past. Because of his tremendous size and power, scouts will sometimes compare him with Marlins superstar Giancarlo Stanton, one of the game's foremost power purveyors and a physical outlier himself at 6-foot-6 and 240 pounds of tightly wound sinew.

Other evaluators have compared him with Hall of Famer and former Yankees outfielder Dave Winfield, who nearly matches Judge's height but checks in significantly lighter. Perhaps the purest comparison in the sports world lies outside of baseball with Seattle Seahawks tight end Jimmy Graham, a 6-foot-6, 265-pound ball of freaky athleticism.

And while all those comparisons are flattering, they also illustrate just how scarce the historical analogs are for Judge. That's why, despite his skill set, it'd be easy to for scouts to write off Judge as a big man with a big swing and a big strike zone that pitchers in the majors will try to pick apart when they get the chance.

They don't do that, however, because that's simply not Judge's game. He's a hulking, intimidating presence in the batter's box, but the way he approaches at-bats fits someone of a much different skill set. And that's a good thing.

Judge's righthanded swing isn't short, but it's not the long, loping version one would expect to see from someone his size. Instead,

his stroke is more geared for line drives that sometimes leave the yard.

That approach was helped this year by the quality of the team around him. When Judge opened the year at Double-A Trenton, a cadre of highly-rated prospects surrounded him. Greg Bird was at first base. Gary Sanchez was behind the plate. Jake Cave was in left field. Mason Williams was in center.

All the talent in the lineup made it easier for Judge to not think of himself as the center of attention, but rather as another cog in an efficiently humming machine, something more akin to what he'll be in the major leagues.

"Since I've been on the Yankees, I've been on some pretty stacked teams," he said. "So I haven't worried too much about having to produce power numbers. If I just get on base for the guy behind me—like Gary Sanchez, Greg Bird or somebody—man, they'll just drive me in."

Evaluators around the Eastern League have taken notice of how Judge acts more like a pure hitter than a true slugger. In 63 games he hit .284/.350/.516 with 12 homers.

"He didn't necessarily try to hit for power," one EL manager said after watching Judge this year with Trenton. "It looked to me like he was just trying to drive the ball, stay gap to gap, but if you made a mistake and left it up at all, obviously just the size and bat speed he has, if he puts the barrel on it, it's got a good chance of going out."

A center fielder for three seasons at Fresno



Scouts struggle to pin a comp on slugger Aaron Judge, the Yankees' 6-foot-7, 275-pound outfielder

State, Judge moved into a corner immediately upon turning pro as the 32nd pick in the 2013 draft. And so far, he's proved a more than capable right fielder with well above-average arm strength, even if his throwing technique and footwork still need refining.

To wit, in this year's Best Tools survey, Judge claimed the awards for Best Power Prospect, Best Outfield Arm and Most Exciting Player. One-dimensional he is not. He landed at No. 13 on this year's midseason top 50 prospects ranking, only one spot ahead of Conforto.

Of course, as with most any big-time prospect, Judge has a few warts. Some evaluators wonder if his power is a product solely of strength rather than a combination of strength and bat speed. Others noted problems swinging through sliders and curveballs, particularly early in the count.

Judge earned a promotion to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on June 22 and is continuing to get valuable at-bats under his belt. At this level, though, he's beginning to see more pitchers with major league experience whose arsenals might not be good

enough to stay in the big leagues but, when combined with their experience, are plenty good enough to separate prospects from suspects.

"A lot of guys have pitched in the major leagues and are up and down—they know how to pitch," Judge said at the Futures Game, where he sat one locker over from Conforto in the U.S. clubhouse. "They're not going to give in to you. 2-0, 3-1, you've got to really just sit back and get a pitch you can drive. They're just going to nibble at the zone to see what you'll chase and what you won't."

Yankees officials are understandably enamored of the progress they've seen from Judge in the brief time he's been in the system. They've made him unavailable in trade talks even when the biggest prizes—Cole Hamels, David Price and Jeff Samardzija, to name a few—are being dangled.

Right fielder Carlos Beltran's contract expires after the 2016 season, and the Yankees believe Judge could step right in. He has a good chance to become the best position prospect the team has developed since



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Michael Conforto made it to the majors just 14 months after being drafted No. 10 overall in 2014

Brett Gardner in 2005.

"This guy is just special. I can't give you a better word than 'special.' He's big, physical and intimidating," a Yankees coach said. "He can really launch and run really well. He's got really good makeup and composure, too. He's just a special type of guy who doesn't come around very often."

"He's got big power and he'll hit line drives that get out. As much as he's got big power, he's not going up there trying to get homers. He swings at strikes and takes his walks, too. He could be an upper-echelon type of player."

Conforto To The Rescue

On the other end of the spectrum, there's Conforto, who went 4-for-4 in his second big league game. His callup from Double-A Binghamton was designed to boost an offense incapable on most nights of supporting a Mets pitching staff dynamic enough to propel the team deep into October, if they can get there.

The 22-year-old Conforto is 6-foot-1, 215 pounds and fits a far more traditional profile than Judge. He impressed in the Futures Game this year, collecting two hits and gunning down a runner at home plate with a laser throw from left field.

Though he didn't win a Best Tools category in the Eastern League—he won Best Hitter in the high Class A Florida State League, however—he appeared on every ballot save for those teams that hadn't seen him play. Regardless, Conforto made a favorable impression around the circuit.

"We saw him when he first came up to Binghamton," one EL skipper said, "and he took one swing in the first inning and (my coaching staff and I) looked at each other and said, 'Wow, that's a big league swing. This guy is different.' We were able to get away with him not doing a ton of damage to us in the series that we saw him, but you could tell just watching him that it's a big league swing."

Conforto's lefthanded swing is balanced and powerful, and his bat path through the zone portends an ability to hit for both average and power at the highest level. When he departed Binghamton, he was hitting

.312/.396/.503, figures that would have placed him among the top 10 in each of the three categories were he around long enough to qualify for the EL leaderboards.

Binghamton skipper Pedro Lopez got his first chance to see Conforto during spring training before he eventually was assigned to high Class A St. Lucie. Lopez took immediate notice of the professional, authentic way he approached his job day in and day out.

"He just has an overall good approach in all aspects of the game," Lopez said the day Conforto was summoned to New York. "That's what makes him successful, and that's what got him a promotion to go to the big leagues."

"That's the way he was brought up since he was playing Little League and college, and he just translated it over here to professional baseball."

Pick A Winner

Now, back to the original question: Given both players' bona fides, which one would you rather have on your team, Conforto or Judge? Midway through the 2015 season, it seems there's no wrong answer—scouts rave about both players with the same frequency.

Here's how one broke down the pair.

"I like Judge just as an all-around batting prospect, but as far as just power, I'd probably go Conforto just because of the swing path and the lefthanded bat. I think Judge has got a more direct path," the scout said.

"Conforto's got a little bit more of an uppercut and an uphill swing, and I mean that in a very good way. It's a leveled bat that's in the zone a long time, and it's a classic lefthanded power swing to all fields. He's going to hit home runs to all fields."

Truly, there's no wrong answer when selecting a favorite among the two players. Both are young, powerful corner outfielders with major league futures. Each seems poised for a career that will turn them into household names on the biggest stage in the sport.

And for Conforto, who made his name as a high schooler in Washington and a college star in Corvallis, the possibility is tantalizing.

"I never really thought I'd be in New York. I never thought I'd be in the biggest market in the world," he said before his callup.

Moncada Begins To Emerge At Greenville

It's been a rough year for the big league Red Sox, but it's been a good year for the organization's low Class A affiliate in Greenville.

While many high-end Red Sox prospects have graduated to the majors in recent months, the organization still oozes with young talent, something that's apparent around the Drive's infield.

The most notable example is second baseman Yoan Moncada, the system's No. 1 prospect at midseason. He is joined by third baseman Rafael Devers (No. 2) and shortstop Javier Guerra (No. 7), both of whom have combined exciting tools with front-line production in the South Atlantic League.

Entering his first season in the U.S., Moncada faced high expectations, both from the public and from himself. And in the early going, he did very little to meet them.

After roughly 18 months away from baseball, the Cuban middle infielder made his debut in May. He struggled mightily at first. Through June, he posted an abysmal .229/.311/.321 line in 122 plate appearances. The numbers were bad, and scouts were underwhelmed. In the month of July, however, Moncada has turned a corner, batting .325/.430/.554 and trimming his strikeout rate.

"I think he's had a very good idea from day one of the strike zone," Greenville manager Darren Fenster said. "He's not afraid to see some pitches. He's not afraid to go deep into the count, but when it comes time, he actually gets some good swings and makes hard contact on a lot of the offspeed stuff at this level. The layoff was definitely a big factor."

Fenster said he's seen significant improvement in Moncada's pitch recognition, noting that Moncada went from committing to swinging at breaking balls early to staying back and seeing more of them. Now today he barrels breaking balls and makes hard contact.

Moncada remains far from his ceiling, but he is beginning to show more of the explosive tool set that made the Red Sox comfortable spending \$63 million to secure him earlier this year.



Yoan Moncada

CLIFF WELCH

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Richmond starts fresh in new ballpark effort

Minor league officials didn't hide their optimism for the city of Richmond when an Eastern League franchise moved from Norwich, Conn., to Virginia's capital before the 2010 season.

Most officials described it as potentially one of the best markets in minor league baseball—if local officials were able to put together a plan to build a new ballpark to replace The Diamond—the same stadium that drove the city's longtime International League franchise, the Richmond Braves, out of town just one year earlier.

Not much has changed in the nearly six full seasons since the Flying Squirrels made their debut. Sure, they have been a hit with locals and have topped the league in attendance the past two seasons. But most of the talk is still about potential, and ballpark plans continue to come and go—and The Diamond endures.

The political dysfunction that derailed the Braves' attempts to replace the ballpark for more than a decade has continued. After a failed bid backed by the mayor to build a retail district centered around a baseball stadium in the city's Shockoe Bottom business district, local officials and the team have yet to even settle on where to build the stadium—much less how to pay for it.

"We've been beating our heads against the wall for too long," Flying Squirrels CEO Chuck Domino said in an interview in July.

The latest drumbeat for a new ballpark comes after mayor Dwight Jones agreed to yield his insistence on the Shockoe Bottom location and allow the Flying Squirrels to investigate playing elsewhere within the city or suburbs. A meeting between the team, city, and neighboring county officials resulted in an agreement to allow the Flying Squirrels to lead a search committee on possible locations for a new ballpark, with plans to settle on one by the end of the year.

The catch is that the team's preferred location—the same area where The Diamond currently sits just off Interstate 95 in north Richmond—is out. Jones calls that real estate too valuable, and said he hopes it will become the site of a planned children's hospital.

The Flying Squirrels say exploring other



Chuck Domino

sites is fine with them.

"The feeling in that meeting was of a clean slate," Flying Squirrels vice president and COO Todd Parnell told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. "We weren't rehashing the past. We're building toward the future . . . The feeling of cooperation and the feeling of collaboration in that room was very, very strong."

The new deal puts the team back at square one, which in this case is actually a significant step forward. And the promise of collaboration is a dramatic change from the past year, when discussions had essentially ceased since the Shockoe Bottom bid was pulled off the table, and the Flying Squirrels began to wonder aloud if they could remain in Richmond.

Team owner Lou DiBella penned an open letter in the Times-Dispatch in June, complaining that the Flying Squirrels had been ignored by local leaders, who instead paid for other projects, including a \$10 million facility for the NFL's Washington Redskins to hold training camp.

"A state of the art minor league stadium is needed to meet the standards and needs of Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, and today's baseball fan," DiBella wrote. "Unfortunately, it seems that the vigor of attracting something new to Richmond takes precedence over a genuine, good faith commitment to keep what is already working here."

Minor League Baseball president Pat O'Conner joined in, telling the newspaper the following day that the city was in danger of losing its team.

"I have to tell you, if there was another good place, you'd be either playing independent baseball at The Diamond or you'd be dark,"

O'Conner said.

Domino walked back those comments, telling Baseball America that the process has been frustrating but the team is committed to remaining in Richmond.

"Trying to get all the counties and city aligned is like a giant Rubik's Cube," Domino said. "It's been a very difficult process. Everybody has the right intentions that they can't get on the same page . . . It usually gets bogged down on location alone before we even get serious about financing."

The dysfunction should hardly come as a surprise, and when asked if it's time to seek private money to cover the bulk of the stadium costs—similar to what the Charlotte Knights (International) did for BB&T Ballpark after more than a decade of failed negotiations with the city—Domino said that everything is being considered.

"We've been saying for the last several months that any and all suggestions to move the ball forward are welcome," Domino said. "We're not stuck on one specific finance plan. We're open to exploring anything."

The team has invested nearly \$3 million in The Diamond during its stay, and Domino said the team is committed to being equal partners with local municipalities in construction costs. They would have split the costs of the Shockoe Bottom ballpark, Domino said.

"The encouraging thing is that there are still a lot of people, elected officials as well as the business community, that have been very vocal in support of the Flying Squirrels never leaving greater Richmond," Domino said. "I'm encouraged that somehow, some way, this will happen . . . in my lifetime."

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What we learned at the Pan Ams



Ben Badler

National Writer
Baseball America

bbadler
@baseballamerica.com

AJAX, ONTARIO

The morning after the Futures Game, I woke up at 3:30 am and took the earliest flight I could get to Toronto so I could get to Ajax just in time for Cuba's noon game against Puerto Rico in the Pan American Games.

Up until the end of the tournament, it looked like Cuba would be flying home

with only a participation trophy. After Cuba jumped out to a 3-0 lead against Puerto Rico in Sunday's bronze-medal game, Puerto Rico's Edgardo Baez hit a grand slam to give Puerto Rico a 4-3 lead in the fourth, then tacked on two more runs on a Jeffry Dominguez home run for a 6-3 lead in the fifth inning.

Puerto Rico cruised the rest of the way holding that score until the bottom of the ninth, when Cuba sent up the bottom of its order. After the first two runners reached base, Cuban shortstop and nine-hole hitter Yorvis Borroto cranked a three-run homer to the opposite field to tie the game.

Two pitches later, 23-year-old Cuban center fielder Jose Garcia, one of the team's best prospects, got a hanging breaking ball up on the outer third of the plate. Garcia extended his arms and drilled a fly ball to dead center field. Puerto Rico center fielder Aldo Mendez raced back to the wall, jumped and stretched his arm over the fence, but the ball landed just beyond where he could his glove could reach. As the ball landed while Garcia rounded first base, he threw his helmet in the air, pounded his chest, stomped emphatically on third base to salute the crowd, then jumped into his teammates, who mobbed him at the plate.

The entire bottom of the ninth inning lasted five minutes, 14 seconds, turning Cuba's Pan Am experience from bitter disappointment to a salvageable medal in dramatic fashion. The game came less than 24 hours after the United States, which barely squeaked into the medal rounds, beat Cuba 6-5 on a walk-off hit of its own after trailing 5-1 after six innings to move on to the gold-medal game.

While the purpose of the trip for me and for the 40-50 MLB scouts here was to get a better gauge on the Cuban players, several aspects of the games jumped out.

Authenticity Is Key

Most baseball fans in the U.S. aren't even aware there was a baseball tournament being played in the Pan Am Games. There's little promotion in America, where the games not only weren't televised and didn't even have an online stream available. Even in Canada, the final game was only available through an online stream, not on TV. In Cuba, the Pan Ams are a huge deal, with most of Cuba's games being broadcast on TV back home.

So I get that it's hard to get into a tournament that's inexplicably unavailable for most fans to watch on TV or their computers, but if you have the opportunity to be at the ballpark, it's a terrific experience.

When Canada played, Canadian fans packed the park with maple leaf logos everywhere, flags waving, red and white shirts, hats and wigs throughout the stadium. When Cuba played the Dominican Republic, it felt like a Caribbean Series game, with fans from both countries filling out the stadium, waving their flags and screaming for their teams

in an atmosphere that felt like a big party. The weather was perfect, the crowds brought the energy, the Molson was flowing, and if I wasn't working, I'd be right there with them.

Over a 162-game major league season, you can't replicate that atmosphere, nor should any team try to. For a short international tournament, it's perfect, and it's real. There's an authenticity to the games and the energy in the park. These aren't the best players in the world from these countries. But you can feel the genuine passion, particularly from Cuba and Canada, both with the players and the fans. That passion and authenticity are what help make a game great, whether it's the Pan Ams, the College World Series, the Caribbean Series, Koshien in Japan or an MLB playoff game.

Tournaments Help Prospects

The focus in the minor leagues is on helping individual players develop their skills, not on winning games. Teams would prefer their minor league affiliates win, since it's more enjoyable for everyone involved, and teams with good prospects should be productive players who help a team win anyway.

But it's hard for teams to breed a competitive, team-first atmosphere when the minor leagues don't work that way. If anything, the minors can create an environment where players feel like their teammates are their competition, viewing them as a threat to take away their playing time or even their job.

While college players spend three or four years in a different environment and can reach the major leagues quickly, high school players typically spend several years in that setting where individual development is prioritized ahead of winning. The effect can be more pronounced with Latin American players, especially Dominican players, many of whom didn't grow up playing any organized baseball.

Righthander Aaron Blair didn't pitch well against Cuba, but facing hitters such as Alfredo Despaigne and Frederick Cepeda to try to get the USA to the gold medal game is an experience the Diamondbacks can't manufacture in the minors.

Mariners outfielder Tyler O'Neill hit a clutch three-run home run under the lights to give Canada a 3-1 victory over Cuba in pool play. With two outs and the bases loaded against Cuba in a 5-5 tie in the bottom of the ninth in the semifinals, Padres center fielder Travis Jankowski made a game-saving catch on a line drive smoked by Cepeda, then in the bottom of the ninth hit a two-out single, stole second base and scored the winning run. Lefthander Josh Hader, the Astros' No. 8 prospect, started for the U.S. in the gold-medal game.

Nearly every game was played in front of a packed stadium of cheering and at times rowdy fans. While some organizations hesitate to let some of their top prospects participate in these events, the smart, forward-thinking front offices recognize the value of these international competitions and the opportunities they provide that the teams themselves can't replicate.

On The Decline

Scouts came away from the Pan Ams saying this was the worst Cuban national team they have ever seen. Well, no kidding. Even two years ago, the cracks were starting to show on Cuba's national team, which used to win every international tournament.

Cuba's 2013 WBC starting infield had first baseman Jose Abreu, second baseman Jose Fernandez, shortstop Erisbel Arruebarrena

and third baseman Yulieski Gourriel. Abreu and Arruebarrena are gone, Fernandez is suspended in Cuba for trying to leave and Gourriel is in Cuba but didn't play for unexplained reasons. Outfielders Guillermo Heredia and Yasmany Tomas, second baseman Andy Ibanez and righthanders Raisel Iglesias and Odrisamer Despaigne are also gone from that team.

The pitching was already thin on that Cuban team, which didn't even make it out of the second round in Tokyo. Now, escalating defections have drained talent from the island. Two of Cuba's best players who were supposed to go to the Pan Ams—infielder Luis Yander La O and corner outfielder Yadiel Hernandez—bolting during the team's tune-up series in North Carolina. With the World Port Tournament running concurrently to the Pan Ams, the B team Cuba sent to Rotterdam is essentially Lourdes Gourriel, a couple of intriguing older players and a whole bunch of players who would be org filler if they defected.

Players like Yasiel Puig, Jose Iglesias, Adeiny Hechavarria and Jorge Soler, who would be big-time young talents on the national team, left years ago. Young arms like Norge Ruiz, Vladimir Gutierrez, Yaisel Sierra and Cionel Perez all defecting this year has hurt the pitching staff, with Alfredo Despaigne the only true star left on the team in Gourriel's absence and Fernandez's suspension.



Cuba still has some prospects like Jose Garcia, but the team's overall talent has declined

Cuba can still win international tournaments. Nearly anything can happen over a week or two worth of games.

But if Cuba wants to win the next WBC, its best chance is to use players who have left the country, allowing players like Chapman, Abreu and Yoenis Cespedes to return to the national team. Otherwise, Cuba is just another solid team at international tournaments, no longer a dominant force that should be favored to win wherever they go.

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JORDON ADELL

Ballard HS, Prospect, Ky.

HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 185.

Adell, a 2017 grad, is an outstanding athlete oozing with high-level tools. His plus speed allows him to easily patrol center field, though his plus arm strength could play in right field. He has a quick right-handed stroke, and the ball jumps off his bat. Adell also has upside on the mound, where he can reach the low 90s.

OF/RHP

CARTER ALDRETE

Monterey (Calif.) HS

HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 190.

Aldrete's righthanded stroke features good rhythm and balance. Defensively, he moves his feet with quickness and shows the body control necessary to make plays off-balance. His skill should come as no surprise considering the bloodlines from his father, Rich, and uncle, Mike, a longtime major leaguer.

IF

KEENAN BELL

Episcopal HS, Jacksonville, Fla.

HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 215.

Bell is a solidly-built young outfield prospect with intriguing bat speed. He generates power with his lefthanded bat, and he has the ability to drive the ball out of the park to right field. He profiles as a corner outfielder at the next level.

OF

WILL BENSON

Westminster HS, Atlanta

HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 225.

Benson is an outstanding athlete with a chiseled frame. He has some of the best pure bat speed in this year's class, with outstanding power and a line-drive stroke. Benson is also a plus runner and shows off a plus arm in right field but needs to improve his reads and routes. The next step will be learning to drive the ball to the opposite field.

OF/1B

THOMAS DILLARD

Oxford HS, Greenwood, Miss.

HT.: 6-0. **WT.:** 215.

A switch-hitter, Dillard's thick frame produces outstanding bat speed, resulting in power from both sides. He has a natural feel for the barrel that makes the power usable. Thomas has a strong, accurate arm leading to time as low as 1.81. He is athletic behind the plate and it shows up in his ability to react to balls in the dirt and in his receiving. His overall looseness and quickness are rarely found in a young catcher with his present strength.

C

GARRETT GOODEN

St. Pius X Catholic HS, Decatur, Ga.

HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 205.

Gooden can do everything on the baseball field. He's a legitimate two-way prospect with a projectable frame and plenty of tools. On the mound, his athletic delivery is repeatable and leads to low-90s velocity and a hard, late-breaking curve. He swings with authority as well, with a clean righthanded stroke.

RHP/IF

NICK HANSON

Prior Lake HS, Savage, Minn.

HT.: 6-6. **WT.:** 205.

Hanson has a durable frame, a fresh arm from the north and the potential for two out pitches. His fastball already touches 94 mph and sits regularly in the low 90s and gets on hitters quickly thanks to the deception in his delivery. His curveball has good shape and depth and could develop into a swing-and-miss pitch.

RHP

BRENDEN HEISS

Jacobs HS, Lake in the Hills, Ill.

HT.: 6-1. **WT.:** 190.

Heiss is a true power arm with an aggressive approach. He attacks hitters with a lively fastball that runs into the mid 90s, and he complements it with a breaking ball that has two-plane break and a developing change. His arm is quick, and the ball gets on hitters in a hurry, with some deception in his delivery.

RHP

TRAVIS HOSTERMAN

Hagerty HS, Oviedo, Fla.

HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 190.

Hosterman has feel for three pitches and advanced command for his age. His fastball sits in the upper 80s, and he projects to add velocity. He pitches to both sides of the plate and spins a quality breaking ball while mixing in a changeup. He is very young for the 2016 class.

LHP

COOPER JOHNSON

Carmel Catholic HS, Mundelein, Ill.

HT.: 6-0. **WT.:** 200.

One of the top defensive catchers in the class, Johnson has a strong durable frame and the tools to stick at the position. He is extremely flexible, and he blocks and throws very well—mostly in the 1.85-1.90 range. Offensively, Cooper has a clean righthanded stroke, generating bat speed and gap-to-gap power.

C

THOMAS JONES

Laurens, S.C.

HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 195.

Jones is a two-sport star with outstanding athleticism, emerging as a top outfielder and a top safety on the football field. He has the ability to change the game at the plate, in the field and on the bases. His quick, loose swing leads to hard contact with power potential, and he utilizes his speed well in center field.

OF

GRAE KESSINGER

Oxford (Miss.) HS

HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 180.

Kessinger has a rare blend of quick feet, soft hands, arm strength and instincts at shortstop. He is a smooth and instinctual defender with first-step quickness. At the plate he has good barrel accuracy and surprising power. Kessinger has excellent baseball bloodlines with a father who played in the minor leagues and a grandfather, Don, who was a six-time all-star with the Cubs.

IF

CARTER KIEBOOM

Walton HS, Marietta, Ga.

HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 190.

Kieboom has a high waist with athletic proportions and room to fill out, and he offers premium athleticism and defensive ability along with the offensive ability expected of corner players..

IF

ZACH LINGINFELTER

Sevier County HS, Sevierville, Tenn.

HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 220.

With a tall frame and long arms, Linginfelter has a projectable body. He runs his fastball into the mid 90s with good plane and throws a curveball that flashes 11-to-5 break, as well as a changeup.

RHP

MITCHELL MILLER

Loganville HS, Covington, Ga.

HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 175.

Miller works in the upper 80s with excellent fastball life and can reach into the low 90s. He works from an athletic delivery with a quick arm and an aggressive approach. His change has fading action around 80, while his breaking ball is a low-70s offering.

LHP

KYLE MULLER

Jesuit College Prep, Dallas

HT.: 6-6. **WT.:** 220.

Muller brings a large, proportioned frame and athleticism to the mound. His delivery is fluid and controlled with a slight crossfire release that adds deception. He has a good feel for his change and tight rotation on his curve. His velocity already touches the low 90s.

LHP

ALEX SPEAS

McEachern HS, Powder Springs, Ga.

HT.: 6-4. **WT.:** 187.

Speas shows potential frontline stuff from a lean, loose frame. His fastball explodes out of his hand with downhill plane, and he runs it up to 96 mph. That pitch is complemented by a powerful mid-80s slider and a changeup that he shows good feel for down in the zone.

RHP

COLTON WELKER

Douglas HS, Coral Springs, Fla.

HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 195.

Welker is a talented all-around player, who can flat-out hit. He has an outstanding knack for finding the barrel in games and reacts well to offspeed stuff. As a defender, Colton can play all of the infield spots with smooth actions, sure hands and online carry to his throws.

IF

JOEY WENTZ

Shawnee Mission East HS, Leawood, Kan.

HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 210.

Wentz is long and lean with a pretty lefthanded stroke. His swing generates excellent leverage leading to some present power with much more on the horizon. Defensively, he moves well around the bag, has soft hands and sets a good target.

1B/LHP

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Jesus Luzardo



Graeme Stinson



Greg Veliz

NATIONAL TEAM

MIKE AMDITIS

Boca Raton (Fla.) Community HS
HT.: 5-10. **WT.:** 190.

One of the best all-around catchers in the class, Amditis is an advanced receiver who sits easy, has strong hands and blocks well. His footwork, exchange, arm strength and accuracy allow him to control the running game. He has a line-drive stroke, flashing power.

SETH BEER

Lambert HS, Suwanee, Ga.
HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 205.

Beer returns for his second year as an Under Armour All-American. His strong frame and coordinated lefthanded swing lead to hard contact. He has some of the best present power of any player in the 2016 draft class. Beer's athleticism shows in the outfield, where he reads and tracks balls well and shows solid arm strength.

BO BICHETTE

Lakewood HS, Tierra Verde, Fla.
HT.: 6-0. **WT.:** 200.

Bichette has bat speed and standout raw power—not unlike his dad and older brother. He gets the bat through the zone with true bat speed, and the resulting sound off his wood bat was loud enough to turn heads on adjacent fields at the Under Armour All-America Pre-Season event. Defensively, he shows athleticism and good instincts.

HUNTER BISHOP

Serra HS, San Carlos, Calif.
HT.: 6-4. **WT.:** 190.

Bishop has a unique skill set with an extremely high ceiling. His large frame provides leverage in his lefthanded stroke, where he shows big power and a feel for the barrel, and he adds plus speed. He's also an accomplished football player—spending time at quarterback and receiver—and has a brother in the minor leagues.

A.J. BROWN

Starkville (Miss.) HS
HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 217.

Brown is the second athlete to play in the Under Armour Baseball and Football All-America Games (Tyler Murray, 2014). He is a physical specimen who plays the outfield in baseball and wide receiver in football. He swings with authority from the right side and his receiver speed and natural instincts allow him to play center field.

DYLAN CARSON

Elk Grove (Calif.) HS
HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 195.

Carlson is a physical young switch-hitter with an advanced hit tool and a high baseball IQ. He makes a good move from both sides of the plate and squares up quality pitching on a regular basis. He flashes power from both sides at present, with more to come in the future. He is an outstanding defender at first base with sure hands, quick feet and an excellent feel around the bag.

JONATHAN GETTYS

Gainesville (Ga.) HS
HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 220.

Gettys' fastball sits in the low 90s, touching more. He has one of the best breaking balls in the class, a true swing-and-miss pitch with excellent depth and bite, and he has a good feel for his change. Gettys is the brother of former Under Armour All-American, Michael Gettys.

RIAN HAIRE

South Caldwell HS, Hudson, N.C.
HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 215.

A strong, well-proportioned athlete, Haire is a premium lefthanded prospect. He has an athletic, repeatable delivery with good arm speed resulting in consistent low 90s velocity. Haire complements his fastball with one of the best curveballs in the class and a changeup.

AUSTIN JAMES

Bloomington HS, Valrico, Fla.
HT.: 6-1. **WT.:** 178.

James showcased his tools at the Under Armour Showcase: Baseball Factory Team One Futures East, where his actions were easy, with sure hands, quick feet and a strong, accurate arm. At the plate he drives balls to the pull side and leaves few holes for pitchers to attack.

JESUS LUZARDO

Douglas HS, Parkland, Fla.
HT.: 6-1. **WT.:** 205.

Luzardo is a polished lefty with an impressive arsenal. His low-90s fastball has tailing action and lives down in the zone. His curve has big downer break, and he turns his change over to get fading action.

ALEK MANOAH

South Dade HS, Homestead, Fla.
HT.: 6-6. **WT.:** 245.

A big, imposing presence on the mound, Manoah looks the part of a power arm—and has the stuff to back it up. He throws from a compact arm action and sits comfortably in the low 90s with good plane and heavy life and can bump the mid-90s.

ANTHONY MOLINA

West Broward HS, Pembroke Pines, Fla.
HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 180.

Molina is a two-time Under Armour selection and continues to be one of the top arms in the class with downhill plane to his low-90s fastball that jumps out of his hand. His three-pitch mix also includes a curveball with depth and changeup that he can throw for strikes

DELVIN PEREZ

International Baseball Academy, Loiza, P.R.
HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 165.

Perez is a plus runner with outstanding defensive actions in the infield. His arm is also plus, and he projects as a shortstop. His right-handed swing is loose and generates very good bat speed.

LHP

RILEY PINT

St. Thomas Aquinas HS, Lenexa, Kan.
HT.: 6-4. **WT.:** 192.

Pint has an excellent pitcher's build and may be the top pitcher in the 2016 class. The athletic righthander has a lively mid-90s fastball and a power curve with great depth and hard bite. His delivery is balanced and repeatable and his arm is clean and extremely quick. Riley has front of the rotation stuff.

GRAEME STINSON

Norcross (Ga.) HS
HT.: 6-5. **WT.:** 240.

Stinson features a compact, simple delivery and works from a low three-quarters arm angle. He shows feel for both his breaking ball and change, and uses both four-seam and two-seam fastballs. He can run his fastball into the low 90s, touching even higher at times.

ALEJANDRO TORAL

Archbishop McCarthy HS, Davie, Fla.
HT.: 6-1. **WT.:** 215.

One of the underclassmen selected for this year's game, Toral owns some of the best power in the country. His lefthanded stroke is clean and quick, and he shows a knack for centering the ball. Despite the home run ability, he rarely strikes out and consistently puts together quality at-bats. He is natural at first base, with good hands, and he has enough athleticism to play the outfield.

GREG VELIZ

Key West (Fla.) HS
HT.: 6-2. **WT.:** 205.

Veliz is an athlete on the mound with a strong, tapered body and an extremely quick arm. His fastball runs into the mid-90s, and he throws a two-seamer that sits 90-92 mph and has late tail and heavy sink. He adds a tight breaking ball and a developing changeup. He also has upside as a hitter, with excellent bat speed from the left side.

FORREST WHITLEY

Alamo Heights HS, San Antonio
HT.: 6-7. **WT.:** 230.

Whitley has an extra-large frame and a fastball to match. His full-arm stroke accelerates through release and delivers live fastballs that sit in the low 90s. He has good shape to a breaking ball that could develop into an out pitch at the highest level. Forrest is a strike thrower with a repeatable delivery, and a calm and composed demeanor on the mound.

ANDY YERZY

York Mills Collegiate Institute, Toronto
HT.: 6-3. **WT.:** 215.

A big, physical backstop, Andy has proven he can handle quality arms both at the plate and behind it playing for the Canadian Junior National Team. His lefthanded bat has outstanding barrel accuracy out of an advanced approach that uses the entire field well. In addition, Andy has flashed excellent pull power.

RHP

LHP

1B

RHP

RHP

C

Heiss comes home to Wrigley Field

BY MICHAEL LANANNA

Having grown up in Illinois, Brenden Heiss is well acquainted with Wrigley Field. The rising senior righthander's high school, Jacobs High in Algonquin, is about 45 miles away, and Heiss has made the trip a couple of times this season alone.

But his next trip to Wrigley will be different: Heiss will be on the mound instead of in the stands, pitching in the Under Armour All-America Game on Aug. 15. That experience in itself should be a special one. But it's made even more special by the fact that Heiss—though an Angels fan himself—grew up in a family of Cubs fans.

Moreover, the game will give Heiss a chance to honor the biggest Cubs fan in his life, his grandfather LeRow Leske, who passed away earlier this year.

"It's really a big honor to me just to be there because I know he's going to be watching from up top," Heiss said. "And he would just be so happy if he could be there to see me play at Wrigley because he's always been a Cubs fan."

"I used to watch them on TV with him. He loved the Cubs. He loved sports in general. He's probably the only person I know who could sit down and watch a game the first inning through the ninth inning on TV."

Though Heiss' grandfather won't be there, Heiss will have plenty of family and friends

rooting him on.

"This is special for our community," said Jamie Murray, Heiss' coach at Jacobs High. "It's a prestigious event for high school players. I mean, that's awesome for him. He deserves it. He's earned it."

Heiss has meant quite a bit to Murray and to Jacobs High over the years, excelling as a pitcher, outfielder and middle linebacker on the football team. At 6-foot-1, 190 pounds, Heiss boasts athleticism and a fair amount of confidence. Murray half-jokingly compared Heiss to Ultimate Fighter Conor McGregor.

"(He's) not as demonstrative. You know, Conor McGregor will talk a lot of trash," Murray said, laughing. "But Brenden has that confidence, swag about him. And some people take it as he's arrogant, but he's a confident kid because he works hard."

Gridiron Tough

Murray said football evaluators have told him Heiss, at times, has looked like the best player on the gridiron—even though he's undersized. In the outfield, Murray remembers Heiss making a spectacular leaping catch in right field against Chicago-based Mount Carmel High this season, getting up and throwing a laser to first base to double up a runner.

But Heiss' future—and main focus going forward—is on the pitcher's mound. His heavy four-seam fastball has registered as high

as 95 mph but sits comfortably in the low 90s. Murray, a former pitcher at Bradley, said Heiss' velocity comes easily and, because of that, thinks there's room for a few more ticks on the radar gun.

Heiss picked up a curveball over the winter from his Top Tier Baseball coaches, and the breaking ball has developed into his go-to offspeed offering, replacing a palmball. Heiss also mixes in a changeup, a pitch he continues to refine. Heiss has shown enough to draw interest from several colleges, including Arkansas, where he has committed.

"I went down there, my first visit, and I really liked it," Heiss said. "I kept waiting it out just to see what other options I could get, and then I finally came to the conclusion that that was the place for me. I really liked it down there. The coaches are unbelievable."

That Heiss is drawing Division I interest and draft interest is significant for the Jacobs High program, which won its first regional title in 2013 and has blossomed under Murray's leadership the last four years.

"If you took 1,000 high school players that came through our program the next 10 years, Brenden might be that one out of 1,000 that's going to be the kid that, his senior year, maybe he has the chance to get drafted or go to Arkansas and play in the SEC and go in the World Series," Murray said.

Before all of that, though, Heiss gets the chance to pitch at Wrigley Field, one of base-















Two-sport standout Brenden Heiss brings a football mentality to the pitcher's mound

ball's cathedrals.

"It's going to be different actually being on the field than sitting on the stands, that's for sure," Heiss said, laughing. "I'm definitely excited, like really excited about it. I'm not really nervous yet, but maybe once I get on the field I will be."

"I'm just going to kind of go in there with some confidence and do my thing."

2015 SELECTED ATHLETES

	JORDON ADELL OF/P HT: 6'3. WT: 185. School: Ballard High School Louisville, KY (2017 Grad.)
	MICHAEL AMDITIS C HT: 5'10. WT: 190. School: Boca Raton Community HS, Boca Raton, FL.
	HUNTER BISHOP OF HT: 6'4. WT: 190. School: Serra High School, San Carlos, CA.
	AJ BROWN OF HT: 6'2. WT: 217. School: Starkville High School, Starkville, MS.
	DYLAN CARLSON 1B/OF HT: 6'3. WT: 195. School: Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove, CA.
	RIAN HAIRE LHP HT: 6'3. WT: 215. School: South Caldwell High School, Hudson, NC.
	THOMAS JONES OF HT: 6'3. WT: 195. Hometown: Laurens, SC.
	GRAE KESSINGER IF HT: 6'2. WT: 180. School: Oxford High School, Oxford, MS.
	ALEK MANOA RHP HT: 6'6. WT: 245. School: South Dade High School, Homestead, FL.
	MITCHELL MILLER LHP HT: 6'5. WT: 175. School: Loganville High School, Covington, GA.
	ALEX TORAL 1B HT: 6'1. WT: 215. School: Archbishop McCarthy High School, Davie, FL.
	COLTON WELKER SS HT: 6'2. WT: 195. School: Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Coral Springs, FL.



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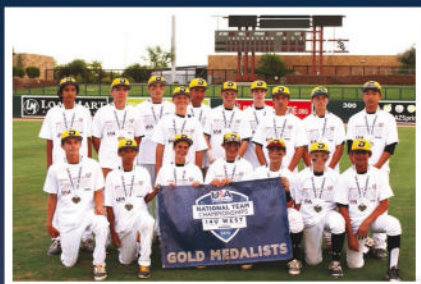
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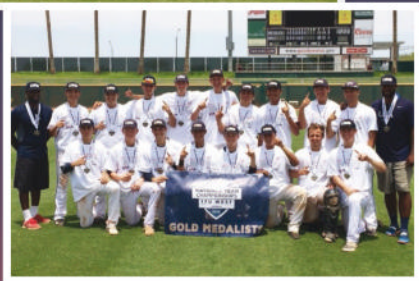
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Lewis' power turning heads on Cape Cod

BY KEGAN LOWE

Up until three summers ago, Kyle Lewis had never taken baseball too seriously. It was just a hobby, something to keep him entertained from February to May.

Now a rising junior at Mercer, Lewis has been one of the standout performers in the Cape Cod League and has cemented himself as one of the most exciting outfield prospects in all of college baseball.

The 6-foot-4, 205 pound Lewis grew up in Snellville, Ga., with a love for the game of basketball. He played baseball for Shiloh High during the spring, but it wasn't the year-round obsession that it has become with most youth baseball players aspiring to play at the next level.

"I never played travel ball or anything like that until that last year going into my senior year of high school," Lewis said. "Going into that summer, I really had no experience with anything really competitive when it came to baseball."

"That summer, that's when I realized I really want to play more baseball. I knew I wanted to get more serious about it."

Playing in 42 games as a freshman in 2014, Lewis had a solid season, hitting

.281/.340/.382 with two home runs and 17 RBIs while playing mostly left field. Although his numbers weren't spectacular, he was selected to the 2014 Atlantic Sun Conference's all-freshman team. Going into his sophomore year, Lewis took the reins as the starting center fielder for the Bears and never looked back. He eventually went on to have one of the best seasons in all of college baseball in 2015.

Lewis started 53 games and racked up a .367/.423/.677 slash line with 17 home runs, 19 doubles and 56 RBIs. He led the Bears in virtually every offensive category on way to being named the 2015 Southern Conference player of the year in Mercer's first year in its new league.

"His body really developed before last year and he started to change physically by getting stronger," Gibson said. "I think that really helped him and he started to use the whole field offensively. He has tremendous power and can hit the ball out anywhere and I think he has shown that."

Lewis credits his breakout season to being more relaxed at the plate and letting the game come to him, as opposed to trying to force the issue like he was as a freshman. A more relaxed approach allowed him to begin to fully tap



Kyle Lewis' breakout season for Mercer continued over the summer with Orleans

into the power potential so obviously apparent when watching Lewis take batting practice or hit in a game.

"Once I started letting things come to me, my pitch recognition went up tremendously," Lewis said. "I have been able to spit at tough breaking balls and tough changeups that I used to swing at. Once you don't swing at those, you start getting into more advantageous counts and situations where you can be successful."

This summer, Lewis has been playing for the Orleans Firebirds, led by head coach Kelly Nicholson, in the Cape Cod League, putting him in front of key scouting decision makers prior to his draft year in 2016.

In less than two months, Nicholson has marveled at Lewis' all-around game, but agrees with his outfielder that his pitch recognition, as well as his athleticism, is what makes Lewis so productive.

"He can hit, he can hit with power, he can defend and he can run," Nicholson said. "But I think the things that he does really, really well—he has outstanding athleticism and he has outstanding pitch recognition. Those two tools are the things that set him apart from the rest. Those two things are pretty special."

The Firebirds boasted a 26-10 record through July 24, a full five games better than their closest counterpart. Lewis has been a major part of their success so far, as he was hitting .306/.333/.512. Lewis ranked third in the league in home runs (six) and second in RBIs (19). Only four players in the Cape had more hits this summer than the 37 by Lewis.

"He has had a great summer," Nicholson said. "But I think the best part about Kyle Lewis is that he is a terrific young man. Everyone can see his physical abilities and the tools that he possesses, but he is an even better young man."

Lewis has played mostly right field for Orleans this summer, which is where he likely projects at the professional level despite the fact that he played an outstanding center field for Mercer this past season. Having just turned 20 years old this summer, Lewis' 6-foot-4 frame should continue to fill out, while his power potential, plus defense and arm strength would make him a prototypical right fielder.

"I personally like center field more than right field, but some people think I will get bigger and end up with a Jason Heyward body or something like that," Lewis said. "But for right now I would like to stay in center field. That is the expectation and that is the goal."

Lewis, participated in the Cape Cod League all-star game on July 25, will finish out the

summer with Orleans before heading back to Georgia in preparation for his junior year at Mercer.

And if the last three years are any indication—when the basketball-first athlete went from deciding he should stick to baseball to now becoming one of the best players in all of college baseball—who knows what type of numbers Lewis may put up next season.

Pitching Dominates Cape ASG

WAREHAM, MASS.

Pitching ruled the day in the 2015 Cape Cod League all-star game, as the two teams combined for 10 hits (all singles) and an unearned run accounted for all the scoring.

The East defeated the West, 1-0, in front of 5,163 fans at Spillane Field. It was the first all-star game to end 1-0 since 2005 and just the second in the game's current East-West format, which has been used since 1988.

"Scouts say, 'Well, the Cape League is down this year, we don't see big arms,'" West manager Harvey Shapiro said. "But we've seen some arms tonight that look pretty good to me."

The lone run of the night came in the fourth inning. With a runner on first and two outs, lefthander Austin Tribby (Missouri) had appeared to get out of the inning when he got Kyle Lewis (Mercer) to hit a chopper to third. But Blake Tiberi's (Louisville) throw pulled first baseman J.J. Matijevic (Arizona) off the bag and Lewis was safe. Donnie Walton (Oklahoma State) followed with a single up the middle to drive in Nick Senzel (Tennessee).

Walton was named MVP of the East team. He said facing the top pitchers in the country is part of the fun of the Cape Cod League.

"Pitching here in this league is unbelievable," Walton said. "Guys coming in there have great arms. But it's fun competing against the best and that's what we do out there, just go out and have some fun."

The East pitching staff made the run stand up, combining for eight strikeouts and holding the West batters to six hits and one walk.

Lefthander Eric Lauer (Kent State) picked up the victory by virtue of his scoreless third inning. He struck out one batter and allowed one hit, but quickly erased the baserunner with a pickoff. His fastball sat around 90 mph and he showed both a curveball and slider.

Righthander Aaron McGarity (Virginia Tech) required just six pitches to get through a perfect inning. He threw his fastball in the low 90s and also showed a good slider.

The West pitchers were nearly as good. They combined for seven strikeouts and held the East batters to four hits and one walk. Righthander Ian Hamilton (Washington State) and lefthander Devin Smeltzer (San Jacinto (Texas) JC) were named co-MVPs after they both struck out two batters in perfect innings of work.

Hamilton was the hardest thrower of the night, working his fastball 94-95 mph and touching 96. He also mixed in couple sliders. Smeltzer threw his fastball in the upper-80s and worked in a good curveball.

Second baseman Nick Solak (Louisville) was the only player to record multiple hits. He went 3-for-4 for the West team. Tiberi finished the night 1-for-3 with a walk.

The quality of pitching made it tough for hitters to get into a rhythm at the plate, East manager Steve Englert said.

"It's tough because they're bringing guys in inning after inning and you can't get your timing down," he said. "You're seeing different arm slots, different speeds, different breaking balls, so it's really tough to go in there with a plan when you're seeing a different arm each inning."

—Teddy Cabill

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Robot ump makes indy ball debut

BY J.J. COOPER

For all the hype and controversy, the first step of the robot-umpire revolution was remarkably unremarkable.

Maybe we'll eventually look back at July 28, 2015, as the starting point of a whole new world, much like the May 24, 1935, night game between the Reds and Phillies at Crosley Field.

Or maybe this will end up being just another crazy independent league promotion, one to be thrown into the memory bank with pigs bringing baseballs to home plate and a nun masseuse.

But if it is the start of something, what was notable about the first-ever professional baseball games to be umpired by machines was just how smoothly it all ran.

With former major league outfielder Eric Byrnes sitting in the stands behind home plate with a monitor in front of him and a microphone in his hand, every pitch of the Pacific Association's San Rafael Pacifics games against the Vallejo Admirals on July 28-29 was judged by a series of Pitch FX cameras.

After Byrnes saw the pitch show up in the same on-screen strike zone that has become familiar to anyone who watches a major league broadcast, he simply called ball or strike, sometimes with a little editorializing added in: "That one just nicked it."

The game didn't slow down; in fact it actually may have moved faster. No umpires were out of work, as the Pacific Association used its usual two-man crew, with the home-plate umpire handling his usual duties—except for calling balls and strikes. The pitchers seemed to appreciate a strike zone that judged breaking balls a little more fairly (or generously, depending on your perspective).

It was remarkably . . . normal.

The two-game automated umpire trial was the brainchild of Byrnes, who served as the "Strike Zone Umpire" for the two games as a charity fund-raiser for the Pat Tillman Foundation.

Byrnes played for the Pacifics last year to raise money for the foundation. This year when discussing ideas for a return visit, Byrnes suggested something a little different: an automated umpire to call balls and strikes, something Byrnes has advocated for a while.

A few phone calls later and Pacifics general manager Mike Shapiro and assistant general manager Vinnie Longo had SportsVision outfitting the stadium to make Byrnes' vision a reality.

The technology has become commonplace in professional ballparks, and fans generally understand and accept how the system works. Three cameras track the ball, and when a pitch crosses the plate, the system immediately shows on a monitor whether it's a strike or a ball. The home-plate umpire could still weigh in to call foul tips or check swings.

Longo said the team consulted the Pacific Association's umpires, and they were in favor of testing out the system.

Byrnes donated \$100 to the Pat Tillman foundation for every walk and strikeout that occurred over the two games. He ended up donating \$4,600. He had offered to donate an additional \$10,000 if he ejected any player or manager for arguing balls and strikes, but there were no arguments.

The team tested the system in a dry run on July 24. It tracked every pitch with no problems, giving the team confidence that it would work with no significant issues.

"We're not just putting on a promotion. We're doing something big for the game of

baseball. I think this is going to work," Longo said before the two-game trial.

The automated umpire was another innovative moment for the four-team California-based independent league that has managed to survive in a difficult market and small parks. The league as a whole is averaging 272 fans a game, according to official attendance figures. None of the four teams in the league is drawing more than 500 fans a game.

But the league has survived into season three. The Sonoma County Stompers have what is believed to be the first openly gay active player in pro baseball history in lefthander Sean Conroy. The Stompers' baseball operations department is run by Grantland's Ben Lindbergh and Baseball Prospectus' Sam Miller, who run the team by sabermetric principles to try to win a title while also gathering material for a book that is expected to come out next year.

And now the league has become the first to experiment with automated ball-strike calls.

It may be a two-game experiment, but it may also be the start of something.

Not long ago, the independent Atlantic League added innovative initiatives to speed up the pace of play, many of which have now been adopted by Major League Baseball. It would not be surprising if other independent leagues toyed with the idea of testing automated ball-strike calls. From there, the idea could grow.

While much of the focus on the technology has revolved around whether it will ever come to Major League Baseball, its biggest effects in upcoming years could come in the minors and college baseball. Big league umpires are the best of the best when it comes to calling balls and strikes. At the lower levels of the game, umpiring is much more uneven. While equipping a ballpark with the technology does require an up-front investment, the idea of a more consistent strike zone may appeal to teams and leagues looking for a well-called game.



Eric Byrnes has been a longtime proponent of using computers to call balls and strikes

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International League (AAA)

NORTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders (Yankees)						56	47	.544	—
Buffalo Bisons (Blue Jays)						53	49	.520	2½
Rochester Red Wings (Twins)						53	49	.520	2½
Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Phillies)						46	56	.451	9½
Pawtucket Red Sox (Red Sox)						41	61	.402	14½
Syracuse Chiefs (Nationals)						40	63	.388	16
SOUTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Norfolk Tides (Orioles)						59	42	.584	—
Charlotte Knights (White Sox)						57	46	.553	3
Gwinnett Braves (Braves)						51	50	.505	8
Durham Bulls (Rays)						51	51	.500	8½
WESTERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Indianapolis Indians (Pirates)						58	44	.569	—
Columbus Clippers (Indians)						57	45	.559	1
Louisville Bats (Reds)						50	53	.485	8½
Toledo Mud Hens (Tigers)						43	59	.422	15

Individual Batting Leaders

(Minimum 2.7 PA/team game)

Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI
Hague, Matt, Buffalo	.354	100	379	134	56	8	70
* Johnson, Micah, Charlotte	.332	63	259	86	46	7	30
* Figueroa, Cole, Scranton/W-B	.315	87	327	103	39	3	37
* Avery, Xavier, Toledo	.307	74	290	89	43	1	29
* Bradley, Jackie, Pawtucket	.304	70	280	85	36	9	28
* Lombardozzi, Steve, Indianapolis	.304	67	257	78	24	0	31
* Motter, Taylor, Durham	.303	87	343	104	49	9	55
* Beresford, James, Rochester	.303	89	340	103	44	1	32
* Falu, Irving, Louisville	.302	83	311	94	47	3	39
* Garcia, Leury, Charlotte	.301	73	282	85	39	1	23

Individual Pitching Leaders

(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)

Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
* Banuelos, Manny, Gwinnett	6	2	2.29	83	63	38	69	0
* Wolf, Randy, Buffalo	7	1	2.57	112	114	35	81	0
Johnson, Erik, Charlotte	8	5	2.59	94	77	30	105	0
* Johnson, Brian, Pawtucket	8	6	2.73	86	68	26	81	0
* Jones, Chris, Norfolk	6	5	2.78	97	106	22	65	0
Drabek, Kyle, Charlotte	5	5	2.89	90	73	27	59	0
Murata, Toru, Columbus	9	4	2.90	112	106	32	66	0
Davies, Zach, Norfolk	4	6	3.02	95	86	32	80	0
* Dean, Pat, Rochester	7	8	3.19	119	119	27	71	0
* Owens, Henry, Pawtucket	3	7	3.25	116	78	55	100	0

Pacific Coast League (AAA)

American Conference

NORTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Oklahoma City Dodgers (Dodgers)						62	38	.620	—
Omaha Storm Chasers (Royals)						58	44	.569	5
Iowa Cubs (Cubs)						52	49	.515	10½
Colorado Springs Sky Sox (Brewers)						40	59	.404	21½
SOUTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Round Rock Express (Rangers)						57	43	.570	—
Memphis Redbirds (Cardinals)						54	48	.529	4
New Orleans Zephyrs (Marlins)						46	55	.455	11½
Nashville Sounds (Athletics)						45	57	.441	13

Pacific Conference

NORTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Fresno Grizzlies (Astros)						58	44	.569	—
Reno Aces (Diamondbacks)						48	54	.471	10
Tacoma Rainiers (Mariners)						48	54	.471	10
Sacramento River Cats (Giants)						44	57	.436	13½
SOUTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Las Vegas 51s (Mets)						58	44	.569	—
El Paso Chihuahuas (Padres)						53	48	.525	4½
Albuquerque Isotopes (Rockies)						46	55	.455	11½
Salt Lake Bees (Angels)						41	61	.402	17

Individual Batting Leaders

(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)

Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI
McBride, Matt, Albuquerque	.350	66	260	91	56	11	43
Montero, Jesus, Tacoma	.337	90	365	123	58	15	72
Hoes, L.J., Fresno	.327	70	269	88	50	3	47
* Freeman, Mike, Reno	.326	75	261	85	49	3	28
Castellanos, Alex, Las Vegas	.318	79	280	89	58	16	56
Nina, Angelys, Albuquerque	.316	80	291	92	44	3	35
Santana, Domingo, Fresno	.315	73	267	84	59	15	56
Ashley, Nevin, Colorado Springs	.309	69	243	75	36	6	46
Evans, Nick, Reno	.307	98	365	112	59	14	68
# Pena, Ramiro, El Paso	.306	84	297	91	52	3	41

Individual Pitching Leaders

(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)

Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
* Matz, Steve, Las Vegas	7	4	2.19	90	70	31	94	0
Roach, Donn, Iowa	7	2	2.33	89	83	16	33	0
* Conley, Adam, New Orleans	8	3	2.58	101	82	39	74	0
* Lamb, John, Omaha	9	1	2.67	94	80	29	96	0
* Cooney, Tim, Memphis	6	4	2.74	89	61	16	63	0
Germano, Justin, Tacoma	7	3	2.83	89	67	14	65	0
Pimentel, Carlos, Iowa	7	5	3.17	97	75	50	84	0
* Nicolino, Justin, New Orleans	6	6	3.43	105	119	27	58	0
* Zito, Barry, Nashville	6	7	3.54	122	112	50	79	0
Straily, Dan, Fresno	8	6	3.59	93	102	16	86	0

Eastern League (AA)

EASTERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Binghamton Mets (Mets)						55	45	.550	—
Reading Fightin Phils (Phillies)						54	47	.535	1½
Trenton Thunder (Yankees)						54	47	.535	1½
New Hampshire Fisher Cats (Blue Jays)						50	48	.510	4
New Britain Rock Cats (Rockies)						48	52	.480	7
Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox)						39	63	.382	17
WESTERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Bowie Baysox (Orioles)						55	45	.550	—
Richmond Flying Squirrels (Giants)						53	47	.530	2
Altoona Curve (Pirates)						54	48	.529	2
Akron RubberDucks (Indians)						53	49	.520	3
Harrisburg Senators (Nationals)						50	52	.490	6
Erie SeaWolves (Tigers)						39	61	.390	16

Individual Batting Leaders

(Minimum 2.7 PA/team game)

Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI
* Hernandez, Marco, Portland	.326	68	282	92	30	5	31
Tomlinson, Kelby, Richmond	.324	64	253	82	43	1	28
* Stassi, Brock, Reading	.318	94	330	105	43	10	66
* Green, Dean, Erie	.316	70	250	79	28	10	42

# Moroff, Max, Altoona	.314	97	379	119	60	4	35
# Bell, Josh, Altoona	.313	91	351	110	47	5	59
Diaz, Yandy, Akron	.312	98	346	108	44	2	30
Cecchini, Gavin, Binghamton	.299	88	351	105	52	7	43
Flores, Jorge, New Hampshire	.294	84	272	80	31	0	16
Moreno, Rando, Richmond	.294	84	286	84	42	1	30

Individual Pitching Leaders

(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)

Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
Doyle, Terry, Bowie	12	1	2.10	103	92	11	80	1
Marte, Kelvin, Richmond	8	2	2.14	84	67	28	52	0
Biagini, Joe, Richmond	8	5	2.15	100	86	22	64	0
Lail, Brady, Trenton	6	3	2.24	100	84	25	61	0
* Bleier, Richard, Harrisburg	8	3	2.45	103	95	9	40	0
Villanueva, Elih, Bowie	7	6	2.75	98	79	18	60	0
Kuhl, Chad, Altoona	8	4	2.75	111	109	34	75	0
Voth, Austin, Harrisburg	4	5	2.82	115	100	27	108	0
Clevinger, Mike, Akron	6	5	2.95	110	94	31	97	0
* Morimando, Shawn, Akron	7	10	2.99	111	90	50	87	0

Southern League (AA)

Second-Half Standings

NORTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Birmingham Barons (White Sox)						20	8	.714	—
Montgomery Biscuits (Rays)						18	11	.621	2½
Tennessee Smokies (Cubs)						12	17	.414	8½
*Chattanooga Lookouts (Twins)						11	17	.393	9
Jackson Generals (Mariners)						8	21	.276	12½
SOUTHERN LEAGUE SOUTHERN DIVISION						W	L	PCT	GB
Mobile BayBears (Diamondbacks)						18	11	.621	—
Mississippi Braves (Braves)						17	13	.567	1½
Pensacola Blue Wahoos (Reds)						17	13	.567	1½
*Biloxi Shuckers (Brewers)						14	15	.483	4
Jacksonville Suns (Marlins)						10	19	.345	8

*First-Half division champion

Individual Batting Leaders

(Minimum 2.7 PA/team game)

Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI
* Powell, Boog, Montgomery	.328	61	238	78	44	1	22
* Kepler, Max, Chattanooga	.327	74	269	88	48	3	40
* Borenstein, Zach, Mobile	.320	71	231	74	39	10	52
* Cox, Zack, Jacksonville	.313	87	265	83	41	3	19
Contreras, Willson, Tennessee	.309	86	304	94	42	5	45
Anderson, Tim, Birmingham	.304	91	378	115	56	2	35
Arcia, Orlando, Biloxi	.301	89	355	107	54	5	50
# Polanco, Jorge, Chattanooga	.301	67	279	84	38	4	28
* Seitzer, Cameron, Montgomery	.291	72	261	76	41	7	35
* Kang, K.D., Mississippi	.288	86	274	79	35	3	35

*Lefthanded. #Switch-hitter.

Hill, Logan, West Virginia	.339	31	115	39	18	3	30
* Moore, Ty, West Virginia	.333	33	123	41	18	1	23
Haynal, Brad, Batavia	.330	29	106	35	12	1	17
* Padron, Victor, Connecticut	.327	27	101	33	10	0	11
* Hayden, Brendon, Williamsport	.323	30	99	32	15	2	12
* Coppola, Zach, Williamsport	.320	28	103	33	18	0	9
# Pirtle, Brett, Connecticut	.316	25	95	30	12	1	6
White, Mikey, Vermont	.315	29	111	35	18	2	16
Arribas, Danny, West Virginia	.313	27	99	31	22	1	11

Individual Pitching Leaders									
(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)									
Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV	
* Bautista, Nestor, Batavia	2	1	1.17	31	31	9	20	0	
Ramirez, Roel, Hudson Valley	3	0	1.87	34	30	6	16	0	
Arteaga, Alejandro, Williamsport	3	0	2.12	34	25	9	28	0	
Taveras, Jose, Williamsport	4	1	2.17	29	24	12	29	0	
Watkins, Spenser, Connecticut	3	2	2.21	37	26	13	29	0	
Cedeno, Luis, Staten Island	4	2	2.23	36	31	9	25	1	
Gueller, Mitch, Williamsport	5	1	2.27	36	25	10	25	0	
Perez, Juan, State College	4	1	2.27	32	27	15	25	0	
Almonte, Gaby, Brooklyn	4	2	2.38	42	38	7	28	0	
Rodriguez, Jorge L., State College	2	2	2.43	30	19	11	20	0	

Northwest League (SS)

NORTHERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
Everett AquaSox (Mariners)					22	16	.579	—
Tri-City Dust Devils (Padres)					22	16	.579	—
Spokane Indians (Rangers)					19	19	.500	3
Vancouver Canadians (Blue Jays)					16	22	.421	6
SOUTHERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
Hillsboro Hops (Diamondbacks)					22	16	.579	—
Salem-Keizer Volcanoes (Giants)					20	18	.526	2
Eugene Emeralds (Cubs)					17	21	.447	5
Boise Hawks (Rockies)					14	24	.368	8

Individual Batting Leaders									
(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)									
Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI		
# Gomez, Miguel, Salem-Keizer	.368	32	136	50	13	3	29		
Jackson, Drew, Everett	.363	29	113	41	30	1	12		
Clark, LaDarius, Spokane	.357	33	143	51	34	8	20		
Vizcaino, Jose, Salem-Keizer	.333	24	93	31	18	4	13		
Taylor, Logan, Everett	.314	32	118	37	19	3	30		
Nehrir, Zach, Hillsboro	.311	33	135	42	24	1	16		
* Van Gansen, Peter, Tri-City	.309	33	136	42	24	2	17		
Padlo, Kevin, Boise	.306	34	121	37	23	4	25		
Marte, Hamlet, Boise	.298	31	114	34	13	3	12		
* Herrera, Carlos, Boise	.297	31	128	38	21	2	16		

Individual Pitching Leaders									
(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)									
Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV	
* Reed, Cody, Hillsboro	4	1	1.37	39	21	9	46	0	
Hernandez, Carlos, Hillsboro	2	1	1.47	43	25	12	53	0	
* Miller, Jared, Hillsboro	7	1	1.81	55	39	11	52	0	
De La Cruz, Oscar, Eugene	2	2	2.23	32	24	10	33	0	
* Leenhouts, Drew, Salem-Keizer	4	2	2.33	39	40	9	33	0	
Lockett, Walker, Tri-City	2	0	2.91	43	37	7	35	0	
Connolly, Mike, Salem-Keizer	2	1	2.95	40	35	9	33	0	
Lanphere, Luke, Spokane	2	0	3.00	36	29	7	26	0	
Hollon, Clint, Vancouver	1	2	3.49	39	33	14	35	0	
Sawyer, Logan, Boise	2	2	3.57	35	32	12	22	0	

Appalachian League (R)

EASTERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
Princeton Rays					18	13	.581	—
Pulaski Yankees					19	14	.576	—
Burlington Royals					16	17	.485	3
Bluefield Blue Jays					15	17	.469	3½
Danville Braves					15	17	.469	3½
WESTERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
Greenville Astros					17	14	.548	—
Kingsport Mets					16	15	.516	1
Johnson City Cardinals					14	16	.467	2½
Elizabethton Twins					14	17	.452	3
Bristol Pirates					13	17	.433	3½

Individual Batting Leaders									
(Minimum 2.7 PA/team game)									
Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI		
* Munoz, Carlos, Bristol	.400	27	105	42	20	7	22		
Castro, Carlos, Danville	.350	26	103	36	13	1	16		
Chinea, Chris, Johnson City	.346	22	78	27	9	2	14		
# Orozco, Rodrigo, Bluefield	.342	29	117	40	24	2	13		
* Sierra, Magneuris, Johnson City	.340	24	103	35	14	3	10		
Goedert, Connor, Greenville	.339	28	109	37	17	3	26		
* Bailey, Austin, Burlington	.336	29	122	41	18	3	18		
Arbet, Trae, Bristol	.329	22	85	28	13	2	8		
Afenir, Austin, Pulaski	.325	29	114	37	15	0	18		
Roa, Hector, Greenville	.321	21	84	27	12	4	14		

Individual Pitching Leaders									
(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)									
Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV	
Nordgren, Miles, Elizabethton	0	2	0.65	28	27	4	15	0	
Deemes, Ryan, Greenville	2	0	0.69	26	17	1	17	1	
* Cortes, Nestor, Pulaski	2	1	0.81	33	23	3	34	0	
Cutura, Andro, Elizabethton	1	1	0.96	28	16	7	22	0	
* Higuera, Juliandry, Bluefield	4	0	1.14	32	30	6	20	0	
* Garcia, Junior, Greenville	3	0	1.23	29	20	7	19	0	
Stashak, Cody, Elizabethton	3	0	1.33	27	20	5	28	0	
Rodriguez, Dereck, Elizabethton	3	1	1.42	35	29	5	23	0	
Pinales, Erasmo, Greenville	1	0	1.35	25	15	8	26	0	
* Perdomo, Angel, Bluefield	3	1	2.12	34	24	8	21	0	

Pioneer League (R)

NORTHERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
Missoula Osprey (Diamondbacks)					23	14	.622	—
Great Falls Voyagers (White Sox)					17	19	.472	5½
Billings Mustangs (Reds)					17	20	.459	6
Helena Brewers (Brewers)					16	20	.444	6½
SOUTHERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
Orem Owlz (Angels)					24	14	.632	—
Grand Junction Rockies (Rockies)					20	18	.526	4
Ogden Raptors (Dodgers)					19	19	.500	5
Idaho Falls Chukars (Royals)					13	25	.342	11

Individual Batting Leaders									
(Minimum 2.7 PA/team game)									
Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI		
* Pierson, Michael, Orem	.393	32	117	46	35	2	22		
* Diaz, Isan, Missoula	.386	32	132	51	29	5	25		
* Survanace, Kyle, Orem	.363	29	124	45	27	2	21		
Fukofuka, Amalani, Idaho Falls	.350	33	143	50	25	0	18		
De Jong, Scott, Ogden	.347	27	95	33	20	7	25		
Ward, Taylor, Orem	.344	27	90	31	17	2	14		
Fletcher, David, Orem	.342	34	149	51	27	0	27		
* Boehm, Jeff, Orem	.339	30	112	38	17	2	22		
Banuelos, Josh, Idaho Falls	.338	34	139	47	23	2	34		
Lassiter, Landon, Great Falls	.337	27	92	31	23	2	13		

Individual Pitching Leaders									
(Minimum 0.8 IP/team game)									
Pitcher, Club	W	L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SV	
* Banks, Tanner, Great Falls	3	1	1.21	37	28	2	14	0	
* Boyles, Ty, Billings	3	1	2.01	40	37	14	29	0	
Einhardt, Evin, Great Falls	4	1	3.03	36	28	9	22	0	
Zurat, Chad, Grand Junction	2	3	3.56	30	40	10	10	0	
Ramirez, Yefrey, Missoula	3	1	3.69	39	35	6	38	0	
Easterling, Brannon, Great Falls	3	1	3.92	39	39	7	25	0	
Gordon, Derek, Idaho Falls	0	2	3.94	30	33	10	34	0	
Takahashi, Bo, Missoula	4	0	4.12	39	36	14	32	0	
Lopez, Eduar, Orem	2	2	4.32	33	39	16	33	0	
* Benitez, Anfernee, Missoula	2	2	4.41	33	32	12	38	0	

Arizona League (R)

Final First-Half Standings					W	L	PCT	GB
EASTERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
AZL Angels					16	12	.571	—
AZL Cubs					14	13	.519	1½
AZL Athletics					14	14	.500	2
AZL Giants					14	14	.500	2
AZL Diamondbacks					11	16	.407	4½
CENTRAL DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
AZL White Sox					17	11	.607	—
AZL Brewers					12	16	.429	5
AZL Dodgers					12	16	.429	5
AZL Reds					12	16	.429	5
AZL Indians					11	17	.393	6
WESTERN DIVISION					W	L	PCT	GB
AZL Royals					21	7	.750	—
AZL Mariners					16	12	.571	5
AZL Rangers					13	15	.464	8
AZL Padres					12	16	.429	9

Individual Batting Leaders									
(Minimum 2.7 PA/team game)									
Batter, Club	AVG	G	AB	H	R	HR	RBI		
Daily, Cody, White Sox	.390	20	82	32	20	3	15		
# Mejia, Gabriel, Indians	.381	25	97	37	26	0	13		
Segovia, Joantgel, Brewers	.365	25	96	35	18	0	7		
* Garcia, Robert, Cubs	.365	26	96	35	20	1	11		
Torres, Franklin, Angels	.349	22	83	29	18	0	8		
Fincher, Jake, White Sox	.346	24	78	27	17	0	3		
Sandoval, Ariel, Dodgers	.343	27	105	36	12	5	18		
* Siddall, Brett, Athletics	.342	19	73	25	12	2	13		
* Sullivan, Tyler, White Sox	.337	25	98	33	20	0	9		
Melo, Yeison, Royals	.333	20	81	27	12	1	15		

Individual Pitching Leaders	
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# Terdoslavich, Joey, of	.288	52	9	15	4	1	2	6	13	13	1
Yepez, Jose, c	.143	70	2	10	0	0	0	7	4	14	1
# Young, Eric, of	.228	149	18	34	5	3	1	17	16	28	13

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Brigham, Jake	3	0	5.00	4	0	0	9	11	3	8	.262
Carpenter, David	2	0	0.71	28	0	2	38	23	15	37	.156
Cunniff, Brandon	1	0	11.25	5	0	0	4	8	7	3	.333
Fisher, Carlos	1	4	1.86	29	0	4	39	25	19	41	.159
Foltynewicz, Mike	1	6	3.49	10	10	0	57	52	26	63	.215
Jenkins, Tyrell	1	1	3.18	3	3	0	17	18	6	8	.240
Kelly, Ryan	3	1	1.31	16	0	7	21	10	7	19	.130
Kohn, Michael	0	1	4.32	5	0	0	8	7	2	10	.219
Marimon, Sugar Ray	3	2	3.61	12	10	0	52	51	18	27	.233
* Marksberry, Matt	0	0	0.96	10	0	1	9	6	1	7	.176
Moylan, Peter	2	0	3.86	20	0	2	21	21	18	28	.239
Perez, Williams	3	1	1.16	8	8	0	39	32	10	36	.208
* Smith, Greg	3	4	2.67	21	9	0	71	68	10	41	.237
Teixeira, Kanekoa	2	3	3.43	18	7	1	60	54	24	45	.216
Weber, Ryan	4	1	1.56	16	2	3	40	32	5	16	.212

MISSISSIPPI BRAVES AA

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Ahrens, Kevin, 3b	.239	276	32	66	14	0	4	43	35	56	6
* Garcia, Eric, ss	.227	185	16	42	9	1	2	20	13	41	1
Godfrey, Sean, of	.232	95	9	22	4	1	0	7	4	17	5
* Hyams, Levi, 2b	.266	109	11	29	5	2	1	6	16	23	1
* Kang, K.D., of	.288	274	35	79	12	5	3	35	30	77	3
Kennelly, Matt, c	.231	143	17	33	6	0	0	12	21	24	0
# Landoni, Emerson, ss	.277	274	35	76	13	4	0	24	14	27	1
Lipka, Matt, of	.262	302	30	79	9	2	1	17	9	46	14
# O'Dowd, Chris, c	.304	79	13	24	5	1	2	16	18	19	3
* Rodriguez, Steven, c	.191	115	10	22	4	0	0	13	12	25	0
Rohm, David, of	.238	260	29	62	6	1	1	20	29	40	3
* Ruiz, Rio, 3b	.207	285	24	59	12	0	1	26	45	68	2
Schlehuber, Braeden, c	.159	63	2	10	0	0	0	2	3	11	1

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Barbosa, Andrew	3	0	3.20	4	4	0	20	18	5	22	.225
Harper, Ryne	0	1	1.62	10	0	0	17	8	7	17	.121
Hursh, Jason	2	6	5.33	21	15	2	79	110	32	57	.298
Janas, Steve	1	3	3.67	5	5	0	27	29	3	16	.259
Jones, Tyler	0	0	2.10	26	0	11	30	30	13	29	.227
* Lambson, Mitchell	1	0	0.00	4	0	2	6	2	3	5	.095
Lamm, Mark	2	0	2.93	29	0	1	43	41	20	23	.216
Mateo, Victor	6	6	2.84	18	17	0	101	93	36	48	.218
Reyes, Jorge	6	5	2.81	20	7	2	64	59	15	55	.229
Ross, Greg	3	9	4.87	19	17	0	98	113	38	47	.264
Sims, Lucas	0	1	3.72	2	2	0	10	3	11	11	.070
Trepagnier, Bryton	3	2	5.14	31	0	0	42	45	29	18	.231

CAROLINA MUDCATS HIGH A

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Briceno, Jose, c	.187	219	25	41	10	0	3	16	11	37	1
# Camargo, Johan, ss	.252	266	28	67	11	4	0	21	19	35	2
* Curcio, Keith, of	.210	238	25	50	9	3	1	20	23	40	10
Franco, Carlos, 3b	.245	330	41	81	20	3	9	41	36	75	4
# Giardina, Sal, c	.200	95	7	19	5	0	0	5	3	27	1
Harper, Reed, 2b	.176	125	13	22	6	0	0	13	11	18	0
* Krietemeier, Tanner, 1b	.158	38	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	5	0
Lien, Connor, of	.287	303	41	87	16	3	7	34	17	90	26
Meneses, Joey, 1b	.224	268	21	60	11	3	3	29	27	62	1
Odom, Joseph, c	.242	128	22	31	10	1	7	29	11	28	0
Peterson, Dustin, of	.256	289	41	74	9	2	6	35	34	64	4
Schrader, Jake, 1b	.249	261	34	65	13	3	10	45	10	72	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Barker, Brandon	5	2	2.77	10	10	0	52	48	13	38	.225
Brosius, Tyler	2	1	3.33	5	5	0	27	26	7	17	.243
Jackson, Justin	3	0	2.94	15	0	1	34	23	21	26	.158
* Otero, Andy	0	3	2.74	25	2	3	43	46	13	40	.247
Povse, Max	1	3	9.33	5	5	0	18	24	7	10	.279
Robertshaw, Britt	0	0	4.04	22	0	2	36	32	12	41	.209
Tate, Richie	2	1	3.38	13	0	1	16	15	13	18	.200
Thurman, Andrew	4	3	3.35	8	8	0	40	42	10	27	.243
* Walters, Blair	5	4	2.57	21	14	0	88	78	23	60	.222
Waszak, Andrew	5	6	4.16	19	10	1	63	63	27	38	.227
Webster, Seth	5	6	2.96	12	11	0	76	82	4	49	.268
Whalen, Rob	0	1	3.18	1	1	0	6	6	3	3	.250
Zavala, Jorge	1	0	2.70	14	0	1	20	20	9	24	.227

ROME BRAVES LOW A

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Albies, Ozzie, ss	.318	374	63	119	20	8	0	38	33	51	29
* Daris, Joseph, of	.281	278	45	78	8	9	4	29	26	53	19
* Davidson, Braxton, of	.252	306	40	77	19	0	7	33	68	100	0
De La Rosa, Bryan, c	.204	201	28	41	13	0	5	17	13	51	0
Edgerton, Jordan, 3b	.262	340	30	89	13	2	3	52	24	71	6
Franco, J.J., 2b	.100	20	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	5	0
* Gaylor, Stephen, of	.272	114	21	31	2	2	0	6	12	14	7
Mendez, Erison, of	.252	111	6	28	3	1	0	7	5	27	1
Murphy, Tanner, c	.187	252	23	47	12	1	3	19	32	71	0
Navarez, Wigberto, c	.159	126	7	20	3	0	2	13	7	33	1
# Obregon, Omar, 2b	.262	325	38	85	5	4	0	37	28	43	26
* Oliver, Connor, of	.217	129	13	28	8	1	0	7	16	39	7
# Teller, Matt, 1b	.204	225	16	43	5	0	2	29	13	67	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Beech, Caleb	5	2	2.97	11	10	0	64	57	17	44	.218
* Caicedo, Oriel	3	5	3.76	17	7	0	55	64	10	33	.268
Cordero, Daniel	1	1	10.43	6	2	0	15	23	9	9	.299
Emmons, Dustin	1	4	4.03	26	0	3	38	47	14	22	.270
Furney, Sean	5	4	3.09	13	6	0	64	51	25	40	.192
* Gil, Yean Carlos	1	3	4.05	6	6	0	40	36	14	25	.213
Gonzalez, Francisco	3	2	8.13	16	0	0	28	31	14	21	.231
Grosser, Alec	4	4	5.38	20	13	0	75	71	52	42	.203
Marte, Felix	0	1	5.63	23	0	1	32	31	29	33	.200
Osnowitz, Mitchell	0	2	4.58	12	0	0	18	16	10	17	.200
Quintana, Zach	2	3	2.27	24	9	3	71	67	24	46	.225
* Sanchez, Ricardo	1	6	5.45	10	10	0	40	37	21	31	.206
Sobotka, Chad	1	4	6.26	8	8	0	27	33	16	16	.258
Toussaint, Touki	2	2	5.65	6	6	0	29	23	29	15	.184

DANVILLE BRAVES R

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Baez, Leudys, of	.289	128	16	37	5	2	4	12	3	28	5
Campbell, Jeff, 1b	.226	31	3	7	3	0	0	2	1	9	0
Castro, Carlos, c	.350	103	13	36	6	1	1	16	5	20	1
Diddler, Ray-Patrick, ss	.240	104	13	25	2	4	0	7	12	26	6
Dykstra, Luke, 2b	.303	99	13	30	6	1	0	9	5	10	2
Estevez, Kelvin, of	.200	60	4	12	1	0	1	4	3	28	0
# Flores, Alejandro, c	.179	39	1	7	3	0	0	4	6	13	0
# Grullon, Yeudi, 2b	.180	50	8	9	1	1	1	3	5	6	0
Hagenmiller, Ian, 1b	.119	67	5	8	3	0	1	8	2	29	1
* Hoekstra, Kurt, 2b	.233	90	9	21	2	3	0	8	12	20	4

Keegan, Trey, c	.211	38	5	8	1	0	0	2	6	4	1
# Lanning, Jacob, 3b	.207	58	4	12	4	0	0	8	7	12	0
Manwaring, Dylan, 3b	.106	47	5	5	2	0	1	3	5	21	0
Martinez, Carlos, c	.241	54	7	13	2	0	1	6	8	6	0
# Morel, Jose, of	.313	96	14	30	3	0	1	10	10	25	2

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Belicek, Trevor	2	0	4.18	7	2	0	24	20	5	19	.208
Clark, Ryan	3	0	3.15	6	0	0	20	16	7	19	.203
Custred, Matt	0	0	1.50	7	0	1	12	6	0	18	.146
Dill, Dakota	1	1	5.27	9	0	0	14	18	1	11	.286
Gamez, Luis	0	3	11.57	4	4	0	9	18	5	8	.321
Graham, Josh	1	1	2.60	6	5	0	17	17	3	21	.221
* Johnson-Mullins, Chase	0	2	3.60	9	0	3	15	18	8	11	.257
Jones, Grayson	2	3	4.30	8	0	0	15	9	13	14	.136
* Lawlor, Ryan	0	0	0.90	6	6	0	20	16	9	17	.198
McLaughlin, Sean	0	1	6.06	9	2	0	16	21	6	16	.276
Weigel, Patrick	0	1	3.33	7	7	0	24	22	11	27	.196
Withrow, Matt	0	1	4.43	6	6	0	20	23	9	16	.256

GCL BRAVES R

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Acuna, Ronald, of	.250	88	19	22	6	2	2	8	13	12	6
* Ellison, Justin, of	.250	80	11	20	5	1	2	13	9	19	5
Guillermo, Ronny, ss	.167	42	1	7	1	0	0	2	3	15	2
* Josephina, Kevin, ss	.188	16	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	1
Keller, Brad, of	.309	55	10	17	4	0	0	4	7	21	4
c Morales, Jonathan, c	.298	47	5	14	1	0	0	2	4	4	2
c Nesovic, Robbie, 3b	.182	44	4	8	2	0	0	2	9	16	0
Perez, Angel, ss	.300	60	8	18	1	0	0	12	3	12	0
Perez, Ruben, c	.143	28	6	4	0	0	1	5	4	14	1
Pina, Jose, of	.158	57	5	9	2	0	1	8	3	13	2
Riley, Austin, 3b	.231	91	14	21	5	0	4	12	11	33	3
Salazar, Alejandro, ss	.316	95	19	30	3	1	1	17	10	17	4
* Wilson, Isranel, of	.188	64	8	12	2	1	4	8	10	29	0
c Yelich, Collin, c	.250	40	3	10	1	0	0	3	5	5	1
c Yepez, Juan, 3b	.313	83	10	26	8	1	1	15	15	24	2

* Bernardino, Brennan	2	2	4.85	28	0	1	39	51	13	35	.283
Ehret, Jake	3	3	3.23	28	0	2	53	50	19	41	.213
Hunter, Brian	5	3	2.20	28	0	7	33	27	13	41	.196
Kivel, Jeremy	0	1	4.25	28	0	2	36	33	26	46	.196
Krauss, Conor	2	0	2.76	30	0	6	46	44	17	35	.233
Mahle, Tyler	11	5	2.41	20	19	0	116	107	16	105	.228
* Moody, Jacob	1	0	4.35	6	0	0	10	17	7	12	.309
* Morillo, Junior	3	5	5.85	10	10	0	52	72	12	31	.306
Paulson, Jake	3	3	2.96	26	7	1	70	71	14	56	.237
Strahan, Wyatt	6	7	2.74	20	20	0	115	114	40	89	.231
* Sullivan, Michael	1	0	3.06	10	0	0	18	14	7	10	.192

BILLINGS MUSTANGS	R										
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BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Bell, Brantley, ss	.336	110	17	37	12	2	0	22	8	20	5
* Carter, Dalton, of	.229	35	3	8	4	0	0	7	1	6	0
Charlton, Edward, of	.276	87	15	24	8	1	3	15	9	23	1
Duarte, Jose, c	.200	35	1	7	1	0	0	3	1	8	0
Franklin, K.J., 1b	.268	82	9	22	9	0	2	15	9	20	0
Garcia, Kevin, of	.333	111	16	37	7	0	0	11	18	11	6
* Mardirosian, Shane, 2b	.259	54	3	14	3	0	0	0	0	9	1
* Martijn, Jonathan, of	.316	76	9	24	4	1	1	13	3	14	1
* Medina, Reydel, of	.240	121	22	29	6	1	8	21	8	39	5
# Piatnik, Mitch, ss	.247	77	11	19	2	0	1	5	4	18	6
* Shields, Zach, of	.222	81	12	18	3	0	0	5	3	14	4
* Stephenson, Tyler, c	.292	96	15	28	9	0	0	8	10	16	0
Trahan, Blake, ss	.336	128	25	43	4	3	1	12	13	12	6
Trees, Mitch, c	.259	54	10	14	2	1	2	6	1	20	1
Vargas, Hector, ss	.283	92	11	26	5	2	0	11	2	11	3

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Arias, Junior Joselin	1	0	3.79	7	0	0	19	20	13	15	.227
* Boyles, Ty	3	1	2.01	7	7	0	40	37	14	29	.226
* Constante, Jacob	2	1	5.87	7	6	0	31	30	21	24	.216
Herget, Jimmy	1	0	5.11	11	0	6	12	8	7	8	.160
Johnson, Jake	2	1	6.14	11	0	0	15	21	10	9	.280
Lopez, Jose	0	2	4.88	8	7	0	24	25	12	24	.240
Marquez, Soid	2	1	3.24	9	1	0	25	19	12	25	.184
* Martinez, Juan	0	3	5.89	13	0	0	18	26	2	13	.313
* Ohanian, Sarkis	1	1	3.32	8	0	0	19	12	10	26	.150
Orewiler, Austin	0	0	6.94	10	0	1	12	13	11	8	.206
Parmenter, Tyler	1	2	2.20	11	0	1	16	12	14	20	.162
Rainey, Tanner	1	0	6.04	7	7	0	22	23	11	20	.225
Ramsey, Jordan	0	3	4.84	7	7	0	16	19	13	16	.226
Romero, Franderlyn	1	3	4.38	7	2	0	25	29	12	20	.261

AZL REDS	R										
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BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Azcona, Francis, 2b	.188	32	3	6	0	0	0	1	4	7	1
* Beltre, Michael, of	.120	25	1	3	0	0	0	1	3	11	2
Butler, Blake, 2b	.365	74	13	27	8	2	1	10	3	16	2
Chavez, Alberti, 2b	.321	56	2	18	2	1	0	6	5	13	1
* Gordon, Miles, of	.263	38	3	10	3	0	0	8	1	10	0
Guerrero, Francis, c	.053	19	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
* Lofstrom, Morgan, c	.250	12	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	1
# Lopez, Maikel, c	.094	32	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
* Marshall, Montrell, ss	.132	76	6	10	3	0	0	4	3	31	0
McElroy, Satchel, of	.280	50	6	14	0	1	0	1	3	12	4
Santana, Leandro, 3b	.225	80	10	18	7	2	0	9	7	25	2
Siri, Jose, of	.265	102	24	27	3	6	2	12	0	27	7
* Turnbull, Jake, c	.291	55	13	16	3	0	1	11	6	16	0
* Vasquez, James, 1b	.307	75	7	23	5	1	4	19	5	14	0
Wallace, Raul, of	.295	95	11	28	6	1	2	9	2	26	5

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Aguilar, Miguel	0	1	3.24	6	0	0	8	7	3	7	.194
Aybar, Manuel	1	1	6.43	7	2	0	14	15	11	16	.221
Bautista, Wendolyn	3	0	2.08	7	0	0	30	31	6	38	.248
Bennett, Connor	0	1	2.45	3	0	0	4	5	2	4	.263
Correll, Zac	1	2	5.23	7	3	0	21	19	7	18	.221
Cuevas, Israel	0	3	5.06	7	0	0	16	17	6	16	.233
Damian, Pedro	0	1	8.00	8	0	1	9	10	9	10	.227
* Felt, Mason	0	0	1.23	6	6	0	7	6	10	6	.176
Jordan, Andrew	0	0	0.00	4	0	0	6	4	0	8	.182
Kahaloa, Ian	0	0	5.06	3	1	0	5	7	2	6	.269
Mena, Alfredo	1	0	4.08	7	1	3	18	12	11	17	.162
Reyes, Jesus	1	4	4.50	8	5	0	28	29	14	22	.232
Rodriguez, Adrian	4	2	2.90	8	5	0	31	29	4	28	.230
* Rucker, Rock	0	0	10.80	2	0	0	2	4	3	2	.308
Santillan, Antonio	0	1	7.71	3	2	0	5	3	5	1	.143

COLORADO ROCKIES	AAA										
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ALBUQUERQUE ISOTOPES	AAA										
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BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Adames, Christian, ss	.301	335	44	101	16	2	7	39	24	41	7
Barfield, Jeremy, of	.381	21	1	8	3	1	0	4	1	3	0
* Bernadina, Roger, of	.262	233	38	61	8	4	11	42	38	77	10
* Bond, Brock, 2b	.218	55	6	12	0	0	0	4	9	9	2
Casteel, Ryan, c	.354	99	12	35	7	1	2	19	2	23	2
Culberson, Charlie, 2b	.200	20	3	4	1	0	1	2	0	6	0
Gameau, Dustin, c	.287	254	39	73	14	0	14	53	25	37	2
McBride, Matt, of	.350	260	56	91	27	1	11	43	17	35	5
Murphy, Tommy, c	.375	8	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
* Nina, Angelys, 2b	.316	291	44	92	16	4	3	35	17	34	13
Parker, Kyle, of	.281	342	52	96	19	4	9	58	24	97	6
Rivera, Jose, 2b	.242	120	14	29	7	0	1	9	6	30	0
Smalling, Tim, 3b	.256	281	37	72	10	1	5	31	22	44	7
Story, Trevor, ss	.301	83	14	25	12	0	6	16	4	20	0
* Wheeler, Tim, of	.249	289	45	72	11	0	8	35	46	82	13

Ynoa, Rafael, ss	.267	75	12	20	6	3	1	5	6	8	2
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PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Brothers, Rex	4	1	4.71	32	0	3	29	22	26	40	.164
Castro, Simon	5	3	3.25	29	0	0	44	39	13	56	.209
Diaz, Jairo	1	5	5.36	38	0	7	42	41	33	31	.206
Gomez, Leuris	0	2	6.75	8	3	0	21	26	9	20	.268
Gonzalez, Nelson	3	3	2.40	17	0	0	30	21	10	27	.183
Gray, Jon	5	6	4.53	20	19	0	109	126	40	102	.258
* Gurka, Jason	1	0	2.96	14	0	0	24	30	5	20	.297
Jurjens, Jair	2	4	5.68	12	11	0	52	73	14	29	.309
* Laffey, Aaron	2	3	4.78	21	7	0	58	67	26	38	.253
* Lannan, John	6	4	4.70	18	17	0	105	140	26	62	.294
* Matzek, Tyler	0	1	63.00	1	1	0	1	1	7	2	.083
Miller, Justin	0	2	2.55	22	0	6	25	19	8	31	.183
* Roberts, Ken	3	3	5.14	16	0	0	21	34	1	17	.374
Whiting, Boone	3	2	4.50	10	5	1	38	43	24	17	.250

NEW BRITAIN ROCK CATS	AA										
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BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Ciriaco, Juan, 2b	.282	202	22	57	4	4	0	21	4	29	12
Cuevas, Noel, of	.272	279	24	76	14	2	1	35	11	63	20
* Dahl, David, of	.278	216	33	60	12	2	3	19	7	52	16
Espy, Dean, 3b	.208	168	15	35	6	0	5	17	12	36	2
Langfels, Jayson, 3b	.180	228	34	41	5	5	1	19	34	81	9
* Massey, Tyler, of	.230	200	24	46	10	1	1	18	17	29	11
* Osborne, Zach, ss	.340	47	7	16	1	0	0	6	1	3	0
* Patterson, Jordan, of	.394	33	8	13	5	0	2	8	4	6	3
Swanner, Will, c	.257	253	27	65	15	0	13	33	34	91	6
* Tauchman, Mike, of	.284	352	43	100	15	3	3	29	33	46	16
* Thurber, Charley, of	.244	41	5	10	2	0	0	3	3	13	0
Valaika, Pat, ss	.234	320	38	75	13	4	6	43	20	76	12
# Vazquez, Jan, c	.197	117	11	23	4	2	2	10	10	41	0
* Wong, Joey, ss	.222	45	2	10	0	0	0	2	0	5	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Broyles, Shane	0	3	3.20	16	1	1	25	22	14	27	.198
Carle, Shane	10	6	3.61	19	19	0	112	119	22	63	.252
Carpenter, Ryan	5	11	4.03	20	20	0	116	122	22	84	.247
Estevez, Carlos	0	1	3.97	20	0	5	23	27	6	27	.265
Evans, Bryan	6	5	3.33	12	0	0	73	61	17	66	.203
Flemer, Matt	5	7	3.12	20	0	0	124	113	29	55	.218
House, Austin	0	4	3.71	38	0	19	34	45	13	24	.281
Musgrave, Harrison	0	1	4.50	3	3	0	16	18	2	13	.277
Ortega, Jose	0	1	3.46	31	0	1	39	28	22	29	.175
Schlosser, Gus	7	3	4.96	27	3	0	45	51	19	28	.246
Sitton, Kraig	2	1	2.15	29	0	0	38	42	10	25	.256
Ybarra, Tyler	0	0	5.20	24	0	3	28	34	21	29	.252

Fernandez, Pablo	0	1	5.40	3	3	0	12	16	2	10	302
* Gonzalez, Victor	1	6	5.87	11	11	0	46	57	14	35	277
Griggs, Scott	2	1	3.52	11	0	0	15	13	10	22	183
Guzman, Kevin	5	7	3.90	17	15	0	83	94	29	62	262
Holmes, Grant	6	2	2.78	18	0	0	81	64	43	98	187
* Molina, Jose	3	2	2.83	30	0	2	48	39	23	45	192
Oaks, Trevor	5	5	2.62	16	0	0	96	82	14	52	217
Palmer, Cameron	2	1	2.76	8	0	0	16	9	15	19	122
Reid-Foley, David	2	2	2.79	26	0	0	52	51	19	40	229
Rossmann, Bubby	2	1	2.18	24	0	0	45	32	23	46	168
Shelton, Matt	1	3	7.68	7	7	0	36	38	29	21	213
Sylvester, Derrick	1	3	4.73	9	5	0	32	34	17	30	225
Underwood, J.D.	3	0	2.32	25	0	2	54	41	10	47	194

OGDEN RAPTORS											
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
* Calhoun, Willie, 2b	.250	136	23	34	8	0	7	24	17	17	2
* Castillo, Deivy, of	.106	66	10	7	0	0	0	3	5	14	2
De Jong, Scott, 1b	.347	95	20	33	7	2	7	25	14	26	2
Godinez, Chris, 2b	.220	59	17	13	0	1	1	7	16	12	3
Gomez, Cristian, ss	.111	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Green, Gage, c	.339	56	7	19	4	1	1	9	2	15	1
Henson, Jake, c	.278	54	3	15	2	0	0	9	5	7	0
* Jones, Matt, of	.306	121	25	37	10	2	5	22	9	37	0
* Kennedy, Garrett, c	.240	50	8	12	4	1	0	8	9	4	1
Landon, Logan, of	.217	23	6	5	0	0	0	2	6	2	0
Medina, Michael, of	.250	120	20	30	9	2	6	26	5	49	1
Oguistien, Faustino, ss	.222	18	5	4	0	0	0	0	2	5	0
* Rios, Edwin, 1b	.143	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Scott, Ryan, c	.135	52	5	7	2	0	0	1	7	18	0
Sell, Nick, 3b	.323	39	22	32	8	4	4	22	7	16	1
Ulmer, Deion, 2b	.299	87	13	26	4	0	0	7	10	13	0
* Vela, Osvaldo, ss	.129	31	4	4	1	0	0	0	3	10	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Boyle, Michael	1	0	0.54	6	3	1	17	15	3	15	.217
Bray, Adam	0	0	2.25	3	0	0	4	2	0	4	.143
Brown, Kevin	0	0	3.60	7	0	0	10	7	2	5	.179
Copping, Corey	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	.000
Crescentini, Marcus	0	0	9.45	12	0	0	13	15	14	24	.214
* Helsabeck, Wes	0	0	3.86	10	0	0	14	14	5	10	.226
Istler, Andrew	1	1	12.12	11	1	0	16	34	7	17	.382
* McDonnell, Rob	1	1	5.60	10	0	0	18	25	10	23	.294
Mullholland, Casey	1	0	6.75	2	0	0	3	6	2	1	.188
Osuna, Lenix	1	0	8.71	9	0	1	10	20	4	12	.385
* Pacheco, Jairo	3	2	4.45	7	7	0	32	30	13	24	.219
* Pfeiffer, Philip	0	0	0.00	1	1	0	2	1	3	2	.111
Reyes, Bernardo	1	2	7.32	10	0	0	20	30	10	21	.313
Rodriguez, Hector	0	0	18.00	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	.500
Sborz, Josh	0	1	4.50	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	.143
Sopko, Andrew	0	0	6.75	3	0	0	4	6	0	5	.353
Soto, William	1	0	3.38	3	2	0	8	7	4	3	.194
Veitez, Ivan	0	2	6.57	9	5	0	25	36	14	21	.290
Villegas, M.J.	0	0	1.23	4	0	0	7	7	1	2	.241

AZL DODGERS											
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Albert, Shakir, of	.226	84	13	19	4	1	0	6	5	20	2
# Aquino, Carlos, ss	.192	52	4	10	1	0	0	4	6	18	2
Capellan, Yensys, 3b	.200	20	3	4	2	1	0	2	4	6	0
Clementina, Hendrik, c	.265	34	4	9	3	0	0	3	3	11	1
Davis, Brendon, 3b	.276	29	4	8	0	0	0	5	1	10	1
# Drexler, Edwin, of	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Giordani, Federico, of	.125	40	3	5	1	0	1	3	6	26	1
* Hansen, Mitchell, of	.167	78	9	13	2	1	0	9	8	26	4
Hope, Garrett, c	.192	26	2	5	1	0	0	2	1	7	1
Isabel, Ibandel, 1b	.237	76	9	18	1	1	3	12	2	33	0
# Paroubek, Jordan, of	.000	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Perez, Moises, ss	.147	68	6	10	2	1	0	3	9	20	3
Pitre, Gersel, c	.378	45	6	17	4	0	0	3	8	4	3
Sandoval, Ariel, of	.343	105	12	36	5	1	5	18	1	25	4
Tarsovich, Jordan, 2b	.286	14	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
* Tirado, Lucas, ss	.147	34	3	5	3	0	0	2	2	20	0
* Walker, Jared, 3b	.286	98	14	28	4	1	2	13	9	38	7

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Abdullah, Imani	0	1	4.26	3	0	1	6	5	2	6	.179
Barlow, Scott	0	1	7.20	2	2	0	5	5	2	7	.227
Bass, Brian	0	0	1.69	3	0	0	5	4	3	3	.174
* Ferguson, Caleb	0	1	5.40	8	4	0	12	11	14	15	.186
German, Angel	0	3	5.00	7	5	0	27	31	16	20	.235
Harcksen, Misja	1	0	1.46	10	0	0	2	12	11	2	.208
Long, Nolan	0	1	4.91	4	0	0	4	3	3	6	.167
Mora, Gregor	0	0	3.71	6	0	0	17	14	7	15	.200
Powell, Chris	1	0	3.48	8	0	0	10	8	6	13	.178
Ramirez, Osiris	0	4	5.79	6	2	0	14	20	10	13	.260
Riekenberg, Drayton	1	1	3.38	6	0	0	8	8	1	10	.250
Santos, Jose	1	0	0.00	6	0	0	7	0	6	7	.000
Schuller, Sven	1	3	9.00	6	4	0	19	21	17	13	.216
Spitzbarth, Shea	1	0	0.00	3	0	0	3	1	3	6	.071
Urena, Kam	4	0	2.38	7	3	0	34	30	9	23	.216
Uter, Kam	0	0	9.00	8	0	0	7	11	3	10	.268

MIAMI MARLINS

NEW ORLEANS ZEPHYRS AAA

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Bantz, Brandon, c	.218	133	13	29	6	0	3	17	14	32	0
* Brignac, Reid, ss	.234	209	23	49	10	0	3	21	28	35	1
# Diaz, Juan, ss	.283	237	21	67	15	1	4	24	9	51	0
Galloway, Isaac, of	.243	284	30	69	10	7	4	27	12	68	7
* Ka'aihue, Kila, 1b	.250	92	10	23	5	0	1	14	20	13	0
Nola, Austin, ss	.323	93	8	30	6	0	0	8	3	13	0
Ozuna, Marcell, of	.322	59	11	19	6	0	3	7	3	10	0
Rottino, Vinny, c	.284	310	45	88	17	1	9	44	41	58	2
* Shoemaker, Brady, of	.302	179	17	54	6	1	6	29	22	30	0
Solano, Jhonatan, c	.205	112	7	23	4	0	3	13	5	18	0
* Valdespin, Jordany, 2b	.294	231	30	68	11	3	2	19	17	27	6
Wates, Austin, of	.222	194	20	43	8	0	0	16	15	37	3

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Batista, Lay	2	4	5.58	10	0	2	20	14	13	19	.156
* Blackley, Travis	0	1	4.70	13	5	0	43	51	10	33	.274
Chaffee, Ryan	1	0	2.45	6	0	0	7	8	7	5	.229
* Conley, Adam	8	3	2.58	18	17	0	101	82	39	74	.199
Cosart, Jarred	0	1	6.06	4	0	0	16	21	8	11	.273
Flores, Kendry	3	2	2.47	8	8	0	47	40	11	35	.214
McGough, Scott	0	0	0.00	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	.250
Morey, Robert	2	2	3.08	15	7	1	53	59	18	32	.260
* Nappo, Greg	1	2	2.22	18	0	0	24	13	7	23	.146
* Narveson, Chris	0	3	6.20	9	3	0	20	31	6	24	.326
* Nicolino, Justin	6	6	3.43	18	18	0	105	119	27	58	.270
* Reed, Chris	0	0	0.00	3	0	0	3	1	2	5	.077
* Urckfritz, Pat	0	4	4.88	24	0	0	31	35	11	23	.246

Urena, Jose	6	1	2.44	10	10	0	63	55	17	38	219
Wittgren, Nick	1	3	2.85	34	0	13	41	36	6	41	221

JACKSONVILLE SUNS AA

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Adams, David, 2b	.280	232	25	65	8	2	3	22	37	33	2
* Black, Danny, 2b	.286	49	9	14	2	0	0	6	7	10	1
* Cox, Zack, 3b	.313	265	41	83	18	1	3	19	34	63	0
Dayleg, Terrence, ss	.208	202	14	42	10	1	1	15	9	45	0
Juengel, Matt, of	.268	321	41	86	15	4	15	56	21	49	3
Krist, Chadd, c	.208	106	13	22	3	3	1	12	9	28	0
* Lopez, Carlos, of	.280	354	38	99	18	3	5	30	23	52	1
# Othman, Sharif, c	.259	216	17	56	7	1	3	23	14	48	0
Pina, Eudy, of	.370	27	4	10	2	2	1	4	1	3	2
* Riddle, J.T., ss	.297	101	14	30	5	1	2	10	5	9	0
* Rieger, Ryan, 1b	.208	197	17	41	12	6	1	19	11	44	1
* Rosa, Viosergy, 1b	.206	272	34	56	14	0	4	37	51	70	0
# Wilson, Kenny, of	.259	355	49	92	17	3	6	32	35	80	23

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Barracough, Kyle	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	.000
Brice, Austin	3	6	5.36	18	0	0	84	82	49	92	.215
Donatello, Sean	0	4	4.05	28	0	14	33	32	11	26	.225
Ellington, Brian	4	1	2.57	24	0	0	42	28	13	45	.169
Esch, Jacob	6	5	3.48	15	0	0	85	69	33	68	.197
Higgins, Tyler	0	0	7.20	3	0	0	5	6	1	5	.273
Hodges, Josh	1	0	4.24	4	2	0	17	12	7	12	.174
Lazo, Raudel	2	1	1.84	10	0	0	15	15	3	19	.242
Logan, Blake	3	2	3.29	24	1	0	41	39	15	49	.215
Lyman, Scott	0	6	6.64	8	8	0	41	50	21	30	.262
Martinez, Juanicto	0	2	4.43	18	0	6	22	15	16	8	.153
Stem, Craig	1	4	2.90	30	1	0	40	35	16	31	.206
Tomshaw, Matt	4	8	4.34	23	12	2	85	95	38	58	.263
Williams, Trevor	6	8	4.16	19	18	0	102	114	33	79	.259
Williamson, Fabian	0	0	3.95	11	0	0	14	10	10	20	.161

Johnson, Kyle, of	.238	84	14	20	7	0	1	10	5	21	7
Lutz, Zach, 1b	.194	31	4	6	1	0	0	4	6	7	0
* Monell, Johnny, c	.361	169	23	61	12	0	6	41	17	23	2
# Munro, Danny, 2b	.304	181	31	55	9	1	2	18	21	27	5
Reynolds, Matt, ss	.270	300	55	81	23	2	5	48	25	63	9
Rivera, T.J., 2b	.307	176	25	54	16	1	2	20	7	22	0
Rohlfing, Dan, c	.234	124	17	29	12	0	2	19	8	34	0
Tajeron, Travis, of	.284	275	48	78	14	2	17	50	48	105	2
Tovar, Wilfredo, ss	.266	308	43	82	10	1	3	34	19	35	26
Vaughn, Cory, of	.215	191	24	41	11	2	5	22	22	57	4
Zapata, Nelfi, 3b	.162	37	4	6	1	0	0	0	5	9	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Black, Vic	1	2	9.22	15	0	0	14	17	11	13	.250
Bowman, Matt	7	10	5.32	20	20	0	107	132	37	57	.276
Bradford, Chase	4	2	4.88	40	0	7	46	66	7	36	.313
Cessa, Luis	0	2	8.04	4	4	0	19	32	4	17	.337
Church, John	4	2	4.94	42	0	3	51	57	13	30	.259
Gee, Dillon	4	1	6.35	6	6	0	34	46	9	29	.295
* Gorski, Darin	8	7	5.05	20	19	0	98	102	46	81	.233
* Huchingson, Chase	0	0	1.47	18	0	1	18	13	13	14	.173
* Leathersich, Jack	0	0	5.40	13	0	0	13	10	7	22	.175
* Rice, Scott	2	1	2.15	42	0	1	29	19	22	29	.156
Satterwhite, Cody	2	0	4.73	39	0	2	51	51	21	49	.231
Thornmont, Zach	4	3	3.74	45	0	2	46	39	14	37	.204

BINGHAMTON METS AA

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Benson, Joe, of	.308	52	12	16	2	0	2	9	6	8	2
Carrillo, Xorge, c	.226	234	27	53	11	1	6	28	20	43	1
Cecchini, Gavin, ss	.299	351	52	105	20	3	7	43	33	42	1
Cordero, Albert, c	.195	113	5	22	3	0	1	5	4	20	0
Galvez, Jonathan, 3b	.000	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Gomez, Gilbert, of	.149	114	16	17	3	1	1	9	19	37	0
# King, Jared, of	.199	312	21	62	9	1	3	33	20	56	4
Mazzilli, L.J., 2b	.266	184	26	49	13	1	0	9	18	32	2
* Nimmo, Brandon, of	.282	266	26	75	12	3	2	16	25	55	0
Peterson, Brock, 1b	.259	166	23	43	10	0	6	32	20	48	1
Rodriguez, Josh, 3b	.277	325	51	90	19	3	15	60	37	66	8

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Fulmer, Michael	5	2	2.03	14	14	0	80	70	23	74	.213
Gsellman, Robert	4	5	3.48	10	10	0	62	58	20	34	.225
Koch, Matt	4	4	2.97	29	3	0	60	64	8	38	.261
* Kolarek, Adam	1	1	4.69	35	0	1	48	42	18	42	.205
Lara, Rainy	5	3	3.84	12	12	0	68	69	15	48	.248
Lugo, Seth	6	4	3.20	17	17	0	98	91	24	89	.221
Morris, Akeel	0	1	5.56	11	0	0	11	11	6	11	.220
Sewald, Paul	3	0	1.56	29	0	15	35	22	6	33	.168
Velasquez, Jon	1	0	2.08	21	0	15	22	14	1	19	.179
Wheeler, Beck	5	1	4.50	29	0	1	40	32	20	40	.185
Ynoa, Gabriel	7	6	3.70	17	17	0	109	102	21	54	.228

ST. LUCIE METS HIGH A

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Cruzado, Victor, of	.244	213	33	52	12	3	3	21	26	45	1
de la Cruz, Maiks, of	.254	256	30	65	11	1	3	29	22	68	7
Evans, Phillip, ss	.237	169	13	40	11	3	0	18	14	33	1
Glenn, Jeff, c	.205	83	9	17	6	0	1	7	8	31	0
* McNeil, Jeff, 3b	.315	349	56	110	13	5	1	27	25	42	14
Oberste, Matt, 1b	.278	270	33	75	16	3	3	38	19	54	1
Plaia, Colton, c	.256	199	16	51	9	0	2	27	14	49	0
Ricardo, Lednier, c	.195	41	3	8	1	0	0	2	0	16	0
Rosario, Amed, ss	.263	316	34	83	17	5	0	21	14	57	11
# Ruiz, Yeixon, ss	.239	180	18	43	3	0	1	11	16	39	9
Sabot, Stefan, of	.275	160	16	44	9	0	1	20	15	49	4
* Smith, Dominic, 1b	.293	338	47	99	27	0	4	55	21	60	1
Stuart, Champ, of	.178	287	36	51	8	1	4	17	36	118	20
# Urena, Jhoan, 3b	.215	149	10	32	4	2	0	16	6	31	1

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Coles, Robby	2	2	2.52	28	0	3	39	32	20	27	.188
Diaz, Miller	5	8	3.95	17	16	0	98	86	45	76	.204
Hepple, Mike	1	2	2.18	28	0	1	41	28	22	28	.166
Hilario, Julian	1	1	5.19	14	0	0	17	12	13	16	.160
Jannis, Mickey	0	0	4.66	4	3	0	19	15	13	10	.172
Kuebler, Jake	2	0	0.77	7	0	0	12	7	3	9	.159
McGowan, Kevin	5	8	5.28	17	16	0	89	102	41	50	.258
Meisner, Casey	3	2	2.83	6	6	0	35	35	14	23	.229
Molina, Marcos	1	4	4.41	6	6	0	33	39	8	32	.273
* Regnault, Kyle	3	2	1.77	27	0	2	41	32	14	38	.193
* Secrest, Kelly	5	2	2.72	27	0	0	40	31	14	35	.189
Taylor, Logan	5	7	4.05	18	16	0	102	99	43	72	.222

SAVANNAH SAND GNATS LOW A

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Abreu, Adrian, c	.273	33	4	9	3	0	0	0	3	5	7
Becerra, Wullmer, of	.291	306	42	89	19	3	8	38	22	72	11
* Biondi, Patrick, of	.278	216	31	60	7	3	0	13	17	36	22
* Garcia, Eudor, 3b	.284	278	40	79	16	3	8	42	12	72	3
* Guillorme, Luis, ss	.296	338	44	100	7	0	2	48	40	59	14
* Johnson, John, 2b	.272	268	50	73	12	4	0	18	56	32	17
Katz, Michael, 1b	.260	77	11	20	7	0	3	16	8	28	0
Leroux, Jon, 1b	.223	242	30	54	5	1	4	30	18	71	1
Lupo, Vicente, of	.201	224	25	45	12	2	7	29	28	108	2
* Moore, Tyler, c	.156	109	10	17	7	1	1	7	14	29	0
* Mora, John, of	.272	323	51	88	16	11	4	50	45	58	10
* Nido, Tomas, c	.254	240	30	61	13	2	5	31	9	65	1
# Rodriguez, Jean, ss	.234	303	30	71	7	1	3	5	27	172	9
* Tuschak, Joe, of	.188	69	5	13	3	1	0	3	4	21	2

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Arias, Martires	4	4	2.89	15	15	0	84	65	34	82	.185
* Baldonado, Alberto	0	6	1.90	26	0	2	43	26	19	53	.158
* Bay, Shane	0	2	6.00	9	0	2	9	10	3	6	.244
Delgado, Casey	4	3	3.90	10	9	0	58	60	9	41	.250
Duff, Jimmy	2	2	3.53	35	0	12	43	42	9	47	.232
Gibbons, Mike	0	3	4.15	3	3	0	17	22	7	12	.301
Griffin, Cameron	0	0	2.18	18	0	4	21	13	8	24	.157
* Grisest, Ben	0	1	3.12	18	0	0	26	21	12	28	.188
Knapp, Ricky	4	2	3.14	14	9	1	63	63	11	54	.239
Oswalt, Corey	7	4	3.91	17	0	9	123	20	70	296	1
Peterson, Tim	1	0	2.00	7	0	0	9	9	4	7	.237
Prevost, Josh	2	4	4.20	7	7	0	45	50	8	33	.263
Reyes, Scarylyn	10	4	3.40	16	16	0	93	87	32	78	.219
Villasmil, Ediolgis	1	0	5.95	7	1	0	20	23	7	20	.256

BROOKLYN CYCLONES SS

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Bernal, Michael, of	.257	101	21	26	8	2	3	13	12	29	1
Broshner, Brandon, c	.180	61	6	11	3	0	3	13	8	24	1
Caraballo, Oswald, of	.100	50	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	9	1
Diehl, Jeff, 1b	.282	71	13	20	5	1	3	10	11	24	0
Fulmer, William, 2b	.357	14	4	5	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
# Garcia, Jose, c	.263	38	2	10	3	0	0	2	5	10	0

Hilario, Manuel, 1b	.114	35	2	4	0	0	1	5	1	8	2
# Kaupe, Branden, 2b	.200	45	4	9	0	2	0	2	5	18	1
Mathieu, Zach, 1b	.170	88	5	15	4	0	1	9	8	25	0
* Perez, Pedro, 3b	.183	60	11	1	1	0	1	8	4	16	0
Reyes, Alfredo, ss	.149	94	5	14	4	0	0	2	3	22	3
Rojas, Hengelbert, of	.323	31	2	10	3	0	0	5	1	6	0
Siena, Vinny, 2b	.313	128	18	40	3	0	0	7	13	26	6
Tharp, Tucker, of	.220	109	12	24	6	0	0	8	15	18	5
Thompson, David, 3b	.253	95	11	24	3	1	1	9	4	16	2
Zabala, Enmanuel, of	.194	72	8	14	2	0	0	4	7	16	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Almonte, Gaby	4	2	2.38	7	7	0	42	38	7	28	.226
Badamo, Tyler	1	4	3.59	7	7	0	43	31	11	33	.182
Blackham, Matt	2	2	3.82	6	6	0	31	25	12	42	.197
Blank, Nicco	2	2	3.86	9	1	0	14	9	12	13	.134
* Canelon, Kevin	2	2	4.33	6	5	0	27	26	8	17	.220
Celas, Jose	0	1	2.70	3	2	0	10	8	16	7	.157
Church, Andrew	1	1	3.12	4	3	0	17	17	6	12	.224
* Conlon, P.J.	0	0	0.00	8	0	0	8	2	1	7	.074
Magliozzi, Johnny	0	0	1.93	3	0	0	5	3	0	3	.167
Missigman, Craig	1	0	1.10	9	0	0	16	12	5	13	.176

BRADENTON MARAUDERS HIGH A

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Diaz, Chris, ss	.260	181	25	47	8	0	0	12	10	27	4
Espinal, Edwin, 1b	.279	308	22	86	19	0	4	47	25	40	1
* Fransoso, Mike, ss	.246	114	12	28	3	0	0	10	14	18	5
* Jhang, Jin-De, c	.305	259	32	79	10	1	1	22	16	25	2
Jones, JaCoby, ss	.255	372	48	95	17	3	10	57	31	110	14
Maffei, Justin, of	.303	201	29	61	9	3	0	13	29	34	9
Mathisen, Wyatt, 3b	.267	288	31	77	8	2	1	20	24	53	0
* McGuire, Reese, c	.275	280	24	77	11	0	0	26	20	27	14
* Meadows, Austin, of	.303	366	55	111	16	3	4	33	34	57	15
Ramirez, Harold, of	.367	169	27	62	8	4	3	32	12	23	14
* Roy, Jeff, of	.000	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
* Steranka, Jordan, 1b	.224	85	7	19	3	0	2	7	1	22	1
* Weiss, Erich, 2b	.292	359	46	105	17	2	3	47	39	67	11

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Dickson, Cody	9	5	4.01	20	20	0	103	107	39	74	.241
Duncan, Frank	7	5	4.40	19	17	0	102	129	12	77	.294
DuRapau, Montana	3	1	1.06	18	0	3	34	14	3	28	.117
Eppler, Tyler	2	1	3.86	8	6	1	33	34	8	25	.243
Gonzalez, Felipe	3	4	3.42	28	7	0	68	65	16	50	.229
Heredia, Luis	3	4	5.98	13	0	56	67	21	32	267	
Hirsch, Henry	1	1	2.80	33	0	1	64	57	17	70	.222
Holmes, Clay	0	1	3.24	2	2	0	8	5	5	7	.143
Lopez, Junior	2	0	2.53	7	0	1	11	6	1	9	.158
* Otamendi, Andy	2	5	6.35	14	1	1	23	30	4	23	.294
Rosario, Miguel	2	2	2.93	17	0	3	31	24	8	32	.200
Sanchez, Isaac	2	2	2.89	31	0	2	53	49	19	43	.212
Stock, Robert	0	0	9.53	5	0	0	6	9	6	3	.300

WEST VIRGINIA POWER LOW A

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Diaz, Francisco, c	.333	39	7	13	0	1	2	5	8	3	0
* Escobar, Elvis, of	.282	333	36	94	19	2	4	39	12	54	9
Filibben, Tyler, ss	.226	155	24	35	4	1	0	7	18	28	6
# Gushue, Taylor, c	.213	254	23	54	11	3	3	30	17	50	2
Joe, Connor, of	.225	169	21	38	9	0	0	11	29	22	0
Luplow, Jordan, of	.250	292	50	73	27	2	7	45	40	51	6
Polo, Tito, of	.236	229	29	54	11	1	1	18	22	49	26
Reyes, Pablo, 2b	.253	308	41	78	16	3	9	37	28	56	18
# Simpson, Chase, 3b	.249	281	48	70	12	3	7	41	49	86	5
Suchy, Michael, of	.267	296	45	79	22	3	6	48	39	64	6
Suiter, Jerrick, of	.300	237	35	71	13	3	3	38	31	36	3
Tam Sing, Trace, ss	.211	76	7	16	8	2	0	21	13	31	4
# Tucker, Cole, ss	.288	295	43	85	12	3	2	24	16	49	25

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Brewer, Colten	2	8	5.13	14	14	0	72	67	22	68	.218
Burnette, Jake	3	3	4.65	18	2	1	41	30	33	48	.160
Coley, Austin	11	5	3.93	19	0	101	104	16	84	.247	
Garcia, Yeddy	9	5	2.12	22	13	1	85	69	26	76	.197
* Lakind, Jared	0	0	0.00	5	0	0	6	6	1	4	.250
McRae, Alex	4	7	4.71	20	19	0	94	105	21	68	.256
Neumann, Nick	1	1	1.74	26	0	13	31	26	9	22	.211
Neverauskas, Dovydas	1	2	4.06	16	5	1	44	38	18	33	.199
Regalado, Jose	4	4	3.72	21	4	2	68	56	10	63	.212
* Sever, John	3	2	3.38	22	9	2	72	70	27	74	.222
Street, Sam	3	1	2.02	23	0	5	62	57	8	52	.227
* Tarpley, Stephen	7	2	2.06	12	12	0	66	62	17	61	.221
Vivas, Julio	1	1	3.47	13	0	0	23	20	10	16	.194

WEST VIRGINIA BLACK BEARS SS

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
* Andriese, David, 1b	.184	38	5	7	1	0	0	5	4	13	0
Arribas, Danny, c	.313	99	22	31	3	1	1	11	10	18	0
Bastardo, Alex, of	.270	37	6	10	2	0	0	7	3	10	1
* Baur, Albert, 1b	.240	104	11	25	5	0	0	13	3	20	1
* Borgione, Erik, ss	.189	37	3	7	0	0	0	2	1	7	0
Garcia, Deybi, c	.172	29	0	5	0	0	0	2	7	0	0
Harvey, Chris, c	.147	34	3	5	2	1	0	1	0	15	0
Hill, Logan, of	.339	115	18	39	8	1	3	30	17	24	6
* Hughston, Casey, 3b	.158	95	10	15	4	2	0	7	7	27	2
Kelley, Christian, c	.219	64	11	14	1	0	0	10	13	11	0
* Kramer, Kevin, 3b	.231	108	22	25	3	0	0	9	13	19	4
* Moore, Ty, of	.333	123	18	41	7	1	1	23	12	19	5
* Nagle, Ryan, of	.308	13	3	4	2	1	0	2	1	2	0
Newman, Kevin, ss	.227	110	18	25	7	1	1	7	8	15	6
Rivera, Maximo, of	.302	43	5	13	1	0	0	5	10	9	4
* Tolman, Mitchell, 2b	.241	83	15	20	4	2	0	8	20	22	1

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Agrazal, Dario	4	1	2.43	7	7	0	37	34	5	26	.224
Brubaker, J.T.	3	3	4.31	7	7	0	31	28	4	20	.222
Dorsch, Eric	1	1	4.80	7	0	0	15	17	6	10	.258
Eusebio, Julio	0	0	2.57	10	0	3	14	11	5	13	.196
* Garcia, Hector	1	2	6.91	5	5	0	14	10	10	19	.156
Helton, Bret	2	4	4.61	7	7	0	27	29	11	21	.238
Hibbing, Nick	1	0	1.50	8	0	0	18	15	2	16	.214
Holdzkorn, John	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	.000
Karch, Eric	1	0	5.14	5	0	7	6	2	6	.207	
* Keselica, Sean	0	1	5.06	9	0	3	11	8	8	15	.174
McGarry, Seth	1	0	3.21	3	3	0	14	10	4	10	.169
Meyer, Stephan	0	0	3.38	1	1	0	3	5	1	2	.357
Minier, Jonathan	0	0	3.33	8	0	0	24	16	20	31	.148
Mulderig, Jerry	1	1	7.15	9	0	0	11	16	5	7	.267
Paula, Luis	2	1	5.40	3	2	0	12	17	0	11	.333
* Pimentel, Cesilio	0	1	5.63	9	2	1	24	27	6	25	.250
Santana, Edgar	1	0	3.57	10	0	1	23	21	3	20	.223
* Zamora, Daniel	0	0	2.25	4	0	0	4	4	1	4	.250

BRISTOL PIRATES R

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Arbet, Trae, ss	.329	85	13	28	9	0	2	8	5	26	0
Bormann, John, c	.161	31	3	5	1	0	0	2	2	5	0
* Buckner, Nick, of	.187	75	4	14	4	1	0	8	7	26	0
# Chourio, Bealyn, ss	.174	46	6	8	5	0	0	4	5	15	0
De La Cruz, Julio, 3b	.257	70	7	18	6	0	0	8	4	19	1
* Figueroa, Edgar, of	.208	53	6	11	1	0	1	3	6	14	0
# George, Zach, 1b	.295	61	14	18	3	1	2	15	10	6	1
* Lunde, Erik, 2b	.304	69	10	21	4	3	2	8	9	11	0
Morales, Tomas, c	.256	39	5	10	1	0	1	0	4	6	3
* Munoz, Carlos, 1b	.400	105	20	42	11	0	7	22	15	10	1
# Ozuna, Carlos, 2b	.242	62	9	15	2	2	1	9	4	15	0
Ratledge, Logan, ss	.200	60	7	12	2	1	0	8	5	8	0
* Rosario, Henry, of	.228	101	17	23	5	0	1	5	6	17	3
Salazar, Jose, 3b	.208	48	5	10	0	0	0	5	3	14	0
Santos, Sandy, of	.270	100	19	27	6	2	3	11	11	31	6
Schwind, Jonathan, of	.333	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vallejo, Enyel, of	.256	43	6	11	1	0	0	4	2	11	0

PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Amedee, Jess	1	0	3.86	8	0	0	16	15	7	25	.214
Anderson, Tanner	2	0	2.25	7	0	1	16	13	1	12	.213
Betts, Palmer	3	0	4.74	9	0	0	25	23	15	26	.211

De Leon, Christopher	0	0	2.45	7	0	0	15	8	11	17	.123
Ferreras, Miguel	0	1	6.55	9	0	3	11	10	11	11	.182
Hightower, Scooter	2	1	2.05	7	1	0	22	14	4	24	.165
Hinsz, Gage	0	2	3.38	4	4	0	10	14	9	4	.264
Kemp, Shane	1	0	8.44	3	0	0	5	6	4	4	.231
Kozikowski, Neil	0	1	5.30	6	5	0	19	27	5	11	.297
Minarik, Marek	1	3	6.29	6	5	0	24	30	10	16	.252
Roth, Billy	0	3	5.84	6	6	0	25	22	12	21	.214
Sendelbach, Logan	0	1	8.79	5	5	0	14	21	6	11	.313
Supak, Trey	1	1	4.96	4	0	0	16	19	3	17	.279
Urbina, Dan	1	3	4.60	8	0	0	16	21	5	13	.280
Wallace, Mike	0	0	13.50	4	0	0	7	14	3	3	.400

GCL PIRATES R

BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Benitez, Luis, of	.263	38	6	10	2	0	0	3	4	10	3
Brands, Paul, c	.158	19	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	8	0
Cerda, Reggie, c	.000	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
de la Cruz, Michael, of	.275	102	14	28	5	3	1	14	10	24	3
Fernandez, Victor, of	.208	53	9	11	3	1	0	8	6	13	8
Gonzalez, Yoel, c	.137	51	7	7	0	0	1	7	10	5	0
Hayes, Ke'Bryan, 3b	.426	61	13	26	4	1	0	6	8	9	3
Herrera, Jhoan, 3b	.293	82	8	24	7	1	1	11	4	21	0
Jorge, Nelson, 2b	.208	24	3	5	0	0	0	2	5	9	1
Kennelly, Sam, 2b	.314	70	3	22	4	1	0	12	6	15	1
Lantigua, Edison, of	.111	36	1	4	0	0	0	3	0	10	0
Perez, Luis, ss	.175	40	2	7	0	0	0	2	1	10	0
Russini, Garrett, c	.211	19	1	4	0	0	0	1	2	4	0
Siri, Raul, 1b	.258	89	15	23	6	0	1	13	13	15	7
Thomas, Eric, of	.260	50	7	13	1	0	0	3	4	12	1
Valerio, Adrian, ss	.233	86	12	20	5	2	1	6	5	16	2

* Wieck, Brad	0	3	4.62	5	5	0	25	25	11	25	.229
Yardley, Eric	2	4	3.46	35	0	15	42	49	10	29	.274

FORT WAYNE TINCAPS											LOW A
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
# Brugeura, Reynaldo, 2b	.100	20	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	9	0
* Charles, Henry, of	.218	78	6	17	6	1	0	9	4	13	2
* Cordero, Franchy, ss	.232	341	42	79	11	1	4	22	20	85	16
Gettys, Michael, of	.233	361	44	84	23	4	5	32	17	122	12
Giron, Ruddy, ss	.294	245	41	72	6	4	8	33	16	44	12
Miller, Michael, c	.212	33	4	7	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
* Moreno, Edwin, of	.289	204	31	59	12	5	2	22	8	43	8
Reyes, Frammil, of	.235	324	32	76	16	5	5	36	30	63	7
Ruiz, Jose, c	.216	218	20	47	5	0	0	17	6	49	2
* Santos, Trae, 1b	.248	311	36	77	24	1	7	37	45	86	3
Tejada, Luis, 2b	.302	129	15	39	7	0	1	14	8	18	4
Urias, Luis, 1b	.365	74	11	27	2	0	0	7	5	8	3
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Blueberg, Colby	2	1	0.91	28	0	13	40	20	9	42	.137
Brasoban, Yimmi	2	3	2.80	26	3	4	55	42	21	50	.187
* Cox, Taylor	0	3	4.50	18	5	0	44	47	27	19	.244
Cressley, Aaron	1	2	6.61	11	0	0	16	21	13	7	.256
* Dorminy, Thomas	8	7	3.53	19	19	0	102	100	40	81	.227
Huffman, Chris	4	6	3.77	14	10	0	62	66	16	32	.244
Kelly, Mike	5	3	4.45	11	11	0	57	59	17	26	.254
Lamet, Dinelson	3	5	3.51	19	17	0	77	59	32	88	.181
Lucio, Seth	4	2	3.19	30	0	0	42	36	18	43	.196
* McGrath, Kyle	2	0	2.37	29	0	1	49	43	6	49	.223
Weir, T.J.	3	3	4.11	25	3	2	57	56	20	62	.228

TRI-CITY DUST DEVILS											SS
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
* Allen, Austin, c	.196	102	9	20	5	0	0	18	12	25	1
Belen, Carlos, 3b	.214	126	17	27	9	1	3	16	14	58	2
Boykin, Rod, of	.264	121	30	32	6	3	0	13	19	43	10
France, Ty, 3b	.284	116	14	33	9	0	0	13	22	18	2
Kennedy, A.J., c	.282	39	9	11	3	0	0	8	3	8	0
* Morales, Mitch, ss	.328	67	12	22	5	0	0	6	8	19	0
Pacchioli, Justin, of	.240	96	21	23	0	1	0	6	19	20	8
Smith, Mason, of	.211	95	14	20	3	1	2	15	11	28	3
* Tidwell, Kodie, ss	.281	57	10	16	3	0	0	7	14	8	0
Urena, Jose, of	.276	127	22	35	9	0	4	29	27	32	5
* Van Gansen, Peter, ss	.309	136	24	42	6	1	2	17	16	25	5
Wlter, Nick, 3b	.216	74	11	16	4	0	0	10	6	28	1
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Castillo, Jose	2	0	3.86	7	6	0	26	26	6	21	.239
Distasio, Lou	1	1	4.22	8	0	0	11	10	6	12	.213
Hernandez, Luis	1	3	3.78	11	0	2	17	10	8	12	.147
Holland, Sam	1	0	3.46	12	0	1	13	12	3	12	.222
* Keel, Jerry	2	0	2.76	10	0	0	16	16	4	12	.219
Kennedy, Brett	0	1	1.96	7	5	0	18	9	7	24	.127
Kimber, Corey	2	0	1.35	12	0	4	13	6	3	14	.120
* Liriano, Elvin	2	0	1.31	12	0	0	21	14	8	28	.167
Lockett, Walker	2	0	2.91	8	8	0	43	37	7	35	.211
Maton, Phil	2	1	1.56	11	0	1	17	13	3	30	.186
Mcgill, Trevor	1	0	3.60	5	0	1	10	8	2	15	.195
Mejia, Angel	1	2	7.39	8	8	0	32	45	11	27	.292
* Russell, Griffin	2	1	3.57	9	0	0	18	17	6	19	.224
Santos, Wilson	0	0	4.76	7	0	0	11	15	3	8	.300

AZL PADRES											R
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
* Aragon, Bryant, c	.296	27	5	8	3	0	0	4	1	12	0
Bravo, Daniel, 2b	.256	39	6	10	3	1	0	4	1	8	2
Burgos, Aldemar, of	.261	88	10	23	1	3	0	5	6	27	4
Contreras, Ronaldo, of	.239	67	8	16	3	0	1	5	2	19	2
De La Cruz, Wilfri, c	.217	23	2	5	1	0	0	5	0	6	0
* Garcia, Alan, of	.429	21	6	9	3	0	0	7	3	7	0
* Lantigua, Jonas, 1b	.246	69	6	17	1	0	2	10	5	14	2
Magdaleno, Westhers, ss	.282	39	6	11	2	0	0	5	2	16	0
Magee, Josh, of	.216	102	12	22	1	0	0	9	10	32	9
Moore, Tyler, 2b	.215	65	6	14	1	0	0	3	9	11	8
Overstreet, Kyle, c	.190	63	10	12	3	1	0	6	10	13	0
Pena, Jhonatan, of	.273	88	8	24	5	1	3	12	7	20	3
Risedorf, Zach, c	.074	27	2	2	0	0	0	1	7	11	1
* Savinon, Jose, ss	.203	59	7	12	1	1	0	3	4	17	4
Sosa, Carlos, 3b	.183	71	4	13	3	1	1	9	6	26	1
* Zunica, Brad, 1b	.224	49	10	11	4	0	0	5	2	13	0
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Ashbeck, Elliott	1	0	4.41	9	0	3	16	17	3	15	.233
* Foriest, Nathan	1	0	1.50	8	0	2	12	8	2	12	.170
Garcia, Jean	0	3	7.01	6	4	0	26	38	12	18	.290
Gonzalez, Manuel	0	3	6.88	4	3	0	17	21	6	20	.259
Guerrero, Jordan	2	0	3.97	7	0	0	11	12	7	12	.235
* Headene, Will	0	0	4.80	9	0	0	15	22	4	21	.319
Linares, Joel	2	1	3.45	6	5	0	29	27	11	20	.225
Lorenzini, Braxton	0	0	7.71	5	0	0	7	9	8	4	.243
Ramirez, Emmanuel	4	2	2.48	6	6	0	33	23	4	28	.174
Rogers, Blake	0	1	3.48	8	0	4	10	8	2	10	.170
Smith, Austin	0	0	3.60	3	3	0	5	9	2	4	.375
Ynfante, Starling	1	4	6.15	6	4	0	26	33	11	27	.268

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS											AAA
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Brown, Trevor, c	.279	172	17	48	11	0	1	15	8	30	1
Duvall, Adam, 3b	.274	383	56	105	23	2	23	71	23	89	4
Ford, Darren, of	.267	258	33	69	8	3	7	19	22	55	22
Frandsen, Kevin, 2b	.293	164	18	48	10	1	2	18	11	8	3
Hicks, Brandon, 2b	.294	34	4	10	1	0	0	2	2	12	0
* Lollis, Ryan, of	.345	171	28	59	12	2	2	13	19	23	3
* Parker, Jarrett, of	.265	275	41	73	10	2	15	47	50	106	13
Perez, Juan, of	.244	266	31	65	19	3	3	27	16	54	15
Tomlinson, Kelby, 2b	.305	105	15	32	1	1	2	9	4	18	5
Triunfel, Carlos, ss	.272	232	24	63	11	5	3	26	6	44	3
Turner, Ben, c	.378	37	2	14	1	0	0	5	1	5	0
Williamson, Mac, of	.245	49	9	12	2	0	2	6	9	10	0
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
* Black, Ty	7	8	4.15	18	18	0	111	126	17	67	.272
Blackburn, Clayton	5	3	3.59	15	12	0	73	85	19	57	.267
Bochy, Brett	3	0	3.38	28	0	0	37	36	15	24	.217
Broadway, Mike	1	0	0.96	30	0	8	37	18	8	49	.132
Cordier, Erik	2	1	1.11	28	0	8	32	17	22	40	.125
Dunning, Jake	2	1	5.52	7	5	0	29	37	16	25	.257
Fleet, Austin	2	3	6.75	7	7	0	32	40	11	20	.274
Gearrin, Cory	2	1	4.10	22	0	0	26	24	11	18	.209
Hall, Cody	1	3	3.88	32	0	2	49	48	18	37	.225
Hanson, Tommy	0	3	6.41	4	4	0	20	26	11	13	.277
* Okert, Steven	2	3	4.61	35	0	1	41	43	19	45	.236

* Osich, Josh	0	0	0.00	3	0	0	3	2	1	5	.154
Partch, Curtis	1	2	3.61	34	0	1	42	41	20	57	.216
* Rapada, Clay	1	3	3.45	34	0	0	31	28	12	20	.207
* Snodgrass, Jack	1	2	4.43	8	2	0	22	23	12	20	.223
Stratton, Chris	0	3	3.25	9	9	0	53	42	19	31	.193
* Turley, Nik	4	5	5.70	11	11	0	54	57	23	41	.244

RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS											AA
BATTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
* Beltre, Engel, of	.309	165	23	51	8	3	3	17	6	21	4
Ciriaco, Juan, ss	.222	36	2	8	3	0	0	2	0	4	2
Cole, Hunter, 2b	.311	90	10	28	7	3	1	9	4	19	3
Delfino, Mitch, 3b	.259	347	34	90	15	0	2	30	30	54	3
# Galindo, Jesus, of	.200	45	3	9	2	0	0	2	2	7	1
Harris, Devin, of	.228	298	39	68	24	1	7	42	27	81	2
Miller, Blake, 2b	.241	79	8	19	2	0	0	2	5	23	1
Moreno, Rando, ss	.294	286	42	84	16	2	1	30	20	32	9
* Oropesa, Ricky, 1b	.260	323	30	84	13	1	12	55	25	82	1
Schroder, Myles, c	.251	235	18	59	4	1	5	24	11	46	7
Slater, Austin, of	.323	96	12	31	6	1	0	4	7	22	1
Williams, Jackson, c	.234	214	24	50	9	1	1	16	23	37	1
# Zambrano, Eliezer, c	.200	115	6	23	5	0	2	5	8	12	0
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	AVG
Beede, Tyler	2	4	4.95	8	0	0	44	32	19	26	.176
Biagini, Joe	8	5	2.15	17	16	0	100	86	22	64	.212
Casilla, Jose	2	5	1.64	37	0	3	44	39	13	24	.215
Crick, Kyle	2	4	2.98	22	11	0	51	39	54	54	.159
Gregorio, Joan	1	1	3.61	30	2	1	42	26	16	41	.154
Johnson, Stephen	2	0	3.86	38	0	0	49	40	25	57	.187
* Lujan, Matt	6	5	3.83	15	15	0	80	88	30	65	.252
Marte, Kelvin	2	8	2.14	19	12	0	84	67	28	52	.198
* McCormick, Phil	3	1	1.74	39	0	1	41	44	17	30	.249
* Mejia, Adalberto	5	2	2.58	9	9	0	45	34	17	28	.182
Mizenko, Tyler	4	2	1.73	24	0	3	36	37	11	23	.247
Quirarte, Edwin	0	2	3.86	16	4	0	40	41	9	33	.243
Rodriguez, Pedro	3	3	2.48	23	2	0	40	38	9	33	.225

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Transactions

Transactions involving minor league players, i.e. those not on 40-man rosters, covering the period July 9-23. Numbers in parentheses indicate draft round.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS: Signed RHP Wesley Rodriguez (12), 1B Matt Fields and SS Dansby Swanson (1). Released RHP Willy Paredes, SS Melvin Mezquita and OF Ryan Hutchison.

ATLANTA BRAVES: Signed RHPs Steven Borkowski, Taylor Cockrell (23) and Vin Mazzaro; LHPs Kolby Allard (1) and Andrew Barbosa and 1B Jeff Campbell. Released RHP Alex White and LHP Francisco Rondón.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES: Signed LHPs Dana Eveland and Andy Oliver. Released RHP Michael Bowden.

BOSTON RED SOX: Signed RHPs Ronald Belisario, Robert Brakeman (16) and Travis Lakins (6); 2B Andy Perez, 3B Dustin Lawley and SS Yomar Valentín (20). Re-signed LHP Danny Rosenbaum.

CHICAGO CUBS: Signed C Luke Carlin. Released RHPs Marcelo Carreno, Francisco Carrillo and Barret Loux.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX: Released RHP Matt Lindstrom. Traded RHP Shawn Haviland to Rockies for cash.

CINCINNATI REDS: Signed RHPs Darren Shred (22) and Mitchell Tripp (36), SS Alejo Lopez (27) and OF Miles Gordon (4). Released RHP Jean Lara, LHPs Blaine Howell and Joe Paterson, C Jose Ortiz, 1B Robert Ramirez and OFs Jose Constanza and Dario Saunders.

CLEVELAND INDIANS: Released RHP Clayton Cook and OF Destin Hood.

COLORADO ROCKIES: Signed RHP Hector Moreta (31). Released RHPs Brett Marshall and Nate Striz and C Jordan Parris. Acquired RHP Shawn Haviland from White Sox for cash.

HOUSTON ASTROS: Signed LHP Matt Bower (23). Released RHPs Gerald Benzant and Aaron Greenwood, C Brett Booth and OF Brandon Meredith. Traded RHP Daniel Mengden and C Jacob Nottingham to Athletics for LHP Scott Kazmir.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS: Signed RHP Gabe Cramer and 2B Tanner Stanley (36). Released LHP Carlos Herrera and OFs Dex Kjerstad and Moises Sierra.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS: Released OF Mark Shannon.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS: Signed RHPs Walker Buehler (1), Logan Crouse (30), Luis Rodriguez (34) and Shea Spitzbarth and 1B Edwin Rios (6). Released RHPs Yeurí Gonzalez and Ryan Taylor, LHPs Ryan Buchter, Dennys Chica, Jeremy Horst and Rudy Owens; C Brian Ward and SS Luis Mateo. Traded LHP Chris Reed to Marlins for LHP Grant Dayton.

MIAMI MARLINS: Signed RHPs Octavio Arroyo (24), Brandon Koch, Rylee MacEachern (33) and Jesus Sanchez; LHP Jonaiker Villalobos, 2B James Roberts and OF Eudy Pina. Released RHP Connor Overton, LHPs Francisco Aquino and Felix Ramos, C Jesus Flores and OF Brent Keys. Traded LHP Grant Dayton to Dodgers for LHP Chris Reed.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS: Signed RHPs Jordan Desguin (36) and Michael Petersen (17), LHPs Jeremy Horst and Nathan Kirby (1s) and C Max McDowell (13). Released RHPs John Ely and Eric Marzec, C Beau Bishop and Cameron Garfield. Traded 3B Aramis Ramirez to Pirates for RHP Yhona-than Barrios.

MINNESOTA TWINS: Signed 1B Zander Wiel (12) and OF Shannon Wilkerson. Released RHPs Scott Atchison, Madison Boer and Chris Mazza; LHP Brandon Bixler and 1B Mike Gonzales.

NEW YORK METS: Signed 1B Zach Lutz, 3B Jonathan Galvez and OF Joe Benson. Released 1B Aderlin Rodriguez, 2B Jairo Perez, 3Bs Alex Castellanos and Dustin Lawley and OF Eudy Pina.

NEW YORK YANKEES: Signed RHPs James Kaprielian (1) and Patrick O'Brien (24) and LHP Josh Rogers (11). Released RHP Javier Calvo and SS Nick Noonan.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS: Released RHPs Blake Hassebrock and Dominque Vattuone, LHP Jerad Grundy, C Ryan Ortiz and OF Matt Angle. Traded LHP Scott Kazmir to Astros for RHP Daniel Mengden and C Jacob Nottingham.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES: Signed C Erik Kratz and OFs Destin Hood, Ben Pelletier (34) and Reggie Wilson (32). Released RHP Juan Figueroa, C Blake Forsythe and OFs Ethan Chapman, Drew Heid and Gustavo Martinez. Traded RHP Tyler Knigge to Mariners for cash.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES: Signed RHPs James Marvel (36), Tate Scioneaux (39) and Jake Thompson; LHPs Ike Schlabach (19) and Brandon Waddell (5) and OF Ryan Nagle (27). Released OF Wes Freeman. Traded RHP Yhona-than Barrios to Brewers for 3B Aramis Ramirez.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS: Signed SS Champ Rowland. Released RHP Jordan Swagerty, LHP Iden Nazario and C Adam Ehrlich.

SAN DIEGO PADRES: Signed OF Alan Garcia (19).

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS: Signed SSs Everth Cabrera and Hector Santiago (12). Released LHP Ryan Bradley, C Guillermo Quiroz, 2B Ryan Jones, SS Ronny Cedeno and OFs Xavier Avery, Brett Jackson and Brennan Metzger.

SEATTLE MARINERS: Signed RHP Chien-Ming Wang and 3B Aderlin Rodriguez. Released C Erik Kratz. Acquired RHP Tyler Knigge from Phillies for cash.

TAMPA BAY RAYS: Signed RHPs Tyler Brashears (14), Justin Marsden (22) and Nicholas Padilla (13) and C Chris Betts (2). Released RHP Anthony Tza-

mtz, LHP Benjamin Molina, 1B Vince Belnome and OF Patrick Grady.

TEXAS RANGERS: Released RHP Cody Kendall and 1B Rock Shoulders.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS: Signed RHP Joba Chamberlain. Released RHPs Joey Aquino and Joel Pineiro, C Pierce Rankin and 3B Edwin Fuentes.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS: Signed RHP Connor Overton, LHP Tyler Watson (34), C Zach Wright and 2B Reegie Corona. Released RHPs Evan Meek, James Simmons and Jose Valverde and 1B Jimmy Yezzo.

Obituaries

Earl Averill, a catcher who played seven seasons in the major leagues, died May 13 in Tacoma. He was 83.

The son of the Hall of Fame outfielder of the same name, Averill first came up with the Indians in 1956. Cleveland traded him to the Cubs in January 1959—the first of four times Averill would be dealt in his seven-year career—and he got his first meaningful big league playing time that year, hitting .237 over 186 at-bats with the Cubs. He got his most significant time with the 1961 Angels, playing their first season as an expansion team, when he hit .266 in 323 at-bats. He finished his career two years later with the Phillies.

Rocky Bridges, a shortstop who played 11 years in the majors from 1951-61, died Jan. 28 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was 87.

Bridges first came up with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1951, hitting .254 in 134 at-bats as a 23-year-old rookie. He got his first chance at a regular role in 1953 following a trade to the Reds but hit just .227 over 432 at-bats, and he was relegated to a mostly reserve role for the next three years. The Washington Senators claimed him on waivers in May 1957, and he went on to make his biggest splash in the majors as a Senator in 1958. Bridges made the all-star team that season for the only time in his career, though he fell off in the second half to finish with a .263 average and a career-best five homers. He played just three more seasons in the majors, ending with the expansion Angels in 1961. Bridges stayed around the game after his playing career, spending 21 seasons as a minor league manager between 1964 and 1989, mixing in a couple stints on the big league coaching staffs of the Angels and Giants.

Larry Eschen, a shortstop who played one season in the majors in 1942, died June 9 in Gainesville, Ga. He was 94.

As a 21-year-old, Eschen appeared in 12 games for the Philadelphia Athletics in June and July of 1942, going hitless in 11 at-bats. He subsequently went into the military and never got back to the majors, only returning to the sport briefly to play in the minors in 1946.

Buddy Lively, a righthander who pitched three years in the majors from 1947-49, died July 12 in Huntsville, Ala. He was 90.

Lively put baseball on hold for three years while he was still in the minors, serving in the Army from 1944-46. After getting out of the service, he promptly reached the majors as a 22-year-old with the Reds in 1947. He split his time between starting and relieving, going 4-7, 4.68 over 123 innings that year. He logged just 23 innings in the majors in 1948 but returned full-time in 1949, again making 10 starts among his 31 appearances and going 4-6, 3.92.

Kal Segrist, a second baseman who played in two big league seasons in the 1950s, died June 26 in Lubbock, Texas. He was 84.

Segrist played in a total of 20 major league games as part of an 11-year pro career. He appeared in 13 games for the Yankees in 1952 and seven with the Orioles in 1955, batting a cumulative .125 (4-for-32). Segrist went on to serve 16 seasons as head coach at Texas Tech from 1968-83, winning 317 games.

Obituary information provided by SABR. Information for minor league obituaries may be emailed to BaseballNecrology@gmail.com.

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July

PLAYER, POS, TEAM	DATE	AGE	SIGNED	SOURCE	SIGNING SCOUT(S)	DIRECTOR
Tyler Saladino, ss, White Sox	7/10	25	White Sox '10 (7)	Oral Roberts	Clay Overstreet	Doug Laumann
Rob Refsnyder, 2b, Yankees	7/11	24	Yankees '12 (5)	Arizona	Steve Kmetko	Damon Oppenheimer
Oscar Hernandez, c, Diamondbacks	7/12	22	Rays '09	Venezuela	Ronnie Blanco	



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

July 13-19

IL BATTER OF THE WEEK

MICAH JOHNSON, 2B
CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS

.500 avg., 10 hits, 1 HR,
1 3B, 7 runs, 4 steals

Coming out of the break, no player in the IL was hotter than Johnson, who paced the circuit in hits, runs, total bases, and stolen bases for the first place Knights.



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IL PITCHER OF THE WEEK

JESSE BIDDLE, LHP
LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS

1 GS, 1-0, 0.00 ERA,
70 IP, 3 hits, 7 strike-outs.

Former first round draft pick Jesse Biddle picked up his first career win at the Triple-A level with an impressive 1-0 victory in Rochester, striking out seven.



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INC.

Hamels is latest to prove why baseball is better than fiction



PHILADELPHIA

We interrupt trade-deadline rumors for a reminder of why sports are the greatest reality show ever. A man twisting in the rumor-filled breeze pitches a no-hitter against a team that hadn't been no-hit in 50 years and 7,921 games in what may have been the final game he'll pitch for the only team he's ever worked for.

You're kidding, right? This actually happened? In actual life?

Yep, it did, all right. So there have now been 290 no-hitters in baseball history.

Is it possible any of them had a crazier set of plot lines converging on the pitcher's mound than this one?

Let's start with the man who pitched this masterpiece, Colbert Michael Hamels.

Counting October, this was the 308th game he's pitched in a Phillies uniform. And when they drafted him 14 years ago, this was exactly what they envisioned. Really.

They envisioned him rising to the top of their rotation. They envisioned him dominating on chilly nights in October. They envisioned him turning into the best pitcher the Phillies have developed in the past half-century. And maybe they even envisioned him pitching a game like this one, filling the scoreboard with zeroes as the whole world watched.

But I bet they never envisioned that if he ever did pitch a game like this, it would be his own quirky way of saying goodbye. That it would be the last game he'd ever pitch in their uniform.

Well, I'll bet you it was.

What he did at Wrigley Field on that late-July Saturday afternoon he did with a dozen scouts training their eyeballs and radar guns at him from behind home plate.

He did it with pretty much the entire front office of the Cubs watching intently, their talks with the Phillies about trading for Cole Hamels on hold for one memorable afternoon.

What he did at Wrigley Field he did for the sake of erasing all those doubts that had begun to emerge about him as the trading deadline neared. And if he was looking for one of those erasers, he couldn't have found a more powerful eraser than this: He faced 29 hitters. And gave up no hits.

Against the previous 29 hitters he'd faced going into that game? He'd given up 16 hits. Really.

Have I mentioned that baseball is insane? And beautiful?

Time To Deal

Now even before all that, it really made no sense that teams would be making sound judgments on whether to trade for this man based on one start. Or two. Or three.



Cole Hamels saved his best performance for what might have been his final one with the Phillies by no-hitting the Cubs

But face it: What happens at the trading deadline isn't always rational. It's often emotional.

If the Phillies don't trade him now, that's an indictment of them—because there was plenty of interest, from Chavez Ravine in Los Angeles to the North Side of Chicago, from Boston to Arlington, Texas. They have all the elements in place now, because Cole Hamels sure did what he needed to do in Wrigley Field.

But you can't sum up the magic of this day without tying in all the other plot lines that made this so amazing.

Long-Time Coming

The Cubs, for instance. The last time the Cubs were no-hit—by Sandy Koufax, on Sept. 9, 1965—Lyndon Johnson was president. No human had ever set foot on the moon. A gallon of gas cost 31 cents. "Gomer Pyle" was the top-rated comedy on television.

And not only was there not a single active player today who was born back then, but we're pretty sure the father of Kris

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TRIVIALITY

It's only trivial if you don't know the answer.

Zack Greinke had a 41-14 record since 2013. Can you name the other two pitchers who are at least 25 games over .500 during that same time period?

» **THE UNLIKELY SLUGGER:** Curt Casali hit just 30 homers in a little more than 1,000 minor league at-bats since being drafted in the 10th round by the Tigers 2011 and later traded to the Rays. Yet the 26-year-old joined a rare home run club in just his 30th big league game. Casali went deep twice against Tigers (and former Rays) ace **David Price** one night after going deep twice against **Anibal Sanchez** and **Bruce Rondon**. The feat made Casali just the fourth player since 1900 to hit back-to-back two homer games, joining **Zeke Bonura**, **George Scott** and **Pedro Alvarez**.

TRIVIALITY ANSWER: Clayton Kershaw (44-18), Max Scherzer (49-16).

Bryant, the man who made the last out Saturday, was in his first week of kindergarten.

It was so long ago that 1,288 different pitchers have won a game against the Cubs since then. Really.

It was so long ago that 130 pitchers have thrown complete-game no-hitters since then—against teams other than the Cubs. Really.

It was so long ago that ESPN Stats and Information's awesome Kernel Kollektor, Doug Kern, tells us that if another 7,920 games go by before the next no-hitter against the Cubs, you won't be seeing that gem until June 2064. Really.

So there's that. The Cubs finally got no-hit. A monumental baseball story unto itself.

But there was one more cool irony to this day, too. And that was the story of Cole Hamels and his catcher.

This was the 207th regular season game Hamels started with Carlos Ruiz as his starting catcher. The 207th. No other current pitcher-catcher combo has started more games together than they have. Not Adam Wainwright and Yadier Molina. Not Matt Cain and Buster Posey. Nobody.

So what were the odds that, on what was probably the final game they'd ever work together, that the man on the mound would pitch a no-hitter—and the man behind the plate would catch his fourth no-hitter, and join Jason Varitek as the only catchers in history to do that?

Carlos Ruiz is just a backup catcher now. Cole Hamels is on his way out the door. But on a breathtaking day at Wrigley Field, the planets would align to let them have one final day of glory together. Really.

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DICK'S Sporting Goods and the DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation through its SPORTS MATTER program have committed \$25 million to support youth athletic programs threatened by budget cuts and lack of resources. To get involved, visit **SPORTSMATTER.ORG | #SPORTSMATTER**